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Infiltrator from Jordan killed, second wounded

ALON PINKAS

A JORDANIAN national was killed last night and an armed Palestinian was wounded Friday afternoon in two infiltration attempts from Jordan.

The Jordanian, who was shot dead by an IDF patrol near Ouja, north of Jericho, was unarmed and his intentions unclear, while the Palestinian was wounded by Dead Sea Works security guards near Sdom after he accosted a worker.

Arava commander Col. Muniv Badr on Thursday noted the border was quiet and patrols from both sides had successfully prevented any infiltrations in that sector for over two years. On Friday afternoon, however, the Palestinian infiltrator crossed into Israel south of the Dead Sea and walked north to the Dead Sea Works plant at Sdom.

An initial IDF investigation indicates that the infiltrator, identified only as an 19-year-old Palestinian from the Jordanian village of Tsafi, attempted to kidnap David Edry, a packaging worker.

Edry said that at 2:45 p.m. on Friday, a man dressed in camouflage battle fatigues put a gun to his head while he was packaging magnesium flakes. Edry said he was standing near a car and managed to slam its door in his assailant's face and alert plant guards.

As three security men approached, the intruder opened fire while trying to escape. One of the guards shot and wounded him, then took him into custody. A 7.62 caliber pistol and 100 bullets were found in his possession. He was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

The army and police sealed the area and searched for other possible infiltrators. In his interrogation, the Palestinian said he crossed the border to kill Israelis.

Later that night, IDF soldiers on patrol near Ouja spotted tracks leading from the border and followed them till they encountered a suspicious man, whom they pursued and shot to death. Personal documents found on him indicated he was a Jordanian national. He was unarmed.



Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and his wife Tamar sit at the head of the Seder table in Beijing on Friday. Some 150 embassy staffers, El Al personnel, Israeli businessmen, and other guests attended the Seder. (Pessah roundup, Page 2.) (Reuters)

Arafat rejects truce with Hamas

JON IMMANUEL

THERE will be no truce for Islamic radicals until they stop using Gaza as a launching pad for attacks against Israelis, Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat decided over the weekend.

A Palestinian poll published yesterday backed him with 79.7% supporting Arafat's demand that "unlicensed weapons be revoked" by May 11. The poll, conducted among 548 Gazans by the Beit Sahour-based Palestinian Center for Public Opinion, showed 75.5% thought the Palestinian Authority "should continue peace talks with Israel."

Although 68% thought Israeli measures provoked the attacks on Israelis, only 26.7% support the attacks, exactly half the number which supported them in a survey by the same pollster, Nabil Kokali, two months ago.

After a Palestinian Authority meeting to discuss the Hamas-PA problem and the economy, Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said that "the door for national dialogue is open to any faction on condition it stops violence and respects the law."

He called for "national unity based on our total commitment to the agreements we signed with Israel." Arafat made similar statements after rejecting a truce on Friday.

Referring to the May 11 deadline on licensing arms, Shaath said that "it is a cornerstone of our security policy in the coming period... We

emphasized our absolute commitment to the laws on carrying weapons and ending violence against Palestinians and Israelis."

PLO and Hamas officials discussed a truce on Thursday, but Arafat rejected the Hamas conditions - an end to arrests, release of "political detainees" and more talks on achieving national unity - because Hamas did not disavow violence.

The same day one of the negotiators for Hamas, Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, said publicly in the Nusseirat refugee camp, home of the Kfar Darom bomber, that Hamas would "be mad" to give up its weapons or promise an end to attacks on Israel.

Arafat's stance was a departure, implying agreement with Israel that opposition groups could only participate in the Palestinian Authority and in coming Palestinian elections if they disavowed violence and did not seek to overthrow the Oslo accords. However, despite the statements, Arafat is unlikely to crack down on the radicals completely until he feels assured that Israel will make a commitment to complete negotiations on elections and redeployment of troops by July 1.

PA Minister Faisal Hussein was quoted as telling reporters in Saudi Arabia that "if we try to be harsher with the militants now,

people will turn against us... People feel that the militants are right because Israel has not honored the accords."

Yesterday, the new security court sentenced a third Islamic activist to jail. Aziz Shami received 15 years for inciting youths to become suicide bombers. Two other Jihad activists were sentenced in overnight trials to 15 and 25 years last week. His cousin, Islamic Jihad spokesman Abdullah Shami, awaits charges after three months in jail. There were no new arrests and some 10-20 of the 250 arrested last week were released, according to police sources.

Islamic Jihad, quiet since the two Gaza attacks last Sunday, threatened to retaliate if more of its people were tried in the security courts, a leaflet said Friday. "Our fighters warn... that they are prepared to respond."

Hamas in Gaza lowered its profile over the weekend. The Friday sermon in the Palestine Mosque, a Hamas stronghold, avoided political confrontation, perhaps hoping Arafat would accept a truce. In Jordan, Hamas was less restrained and denounced King Hussein's order that its spokesmen stop violating the law by attacking the PA in the name of Hamas. It accused Arafat of inciting Jordan against Hamas and said the Palestinian people "will not submit to any repression or threats from any side," a statement faxed to Reuters said.

CPI drops by 0.1%

Pressure mounts to cut interest rates

NEIL COHEN

PRESSURE was mounting on the Bank of Israel over the weekend to cut interest rates after March inflation figures, released on Friday, showed that consumer prices dropped unexpectedly last month by 0.1 percent.

The last negative index was in May 1992, when prices dropped 0.4%.

The bank is expected to announce its monetary program for May within the next week.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, standing in for Finance Minister Avraham Shohat who is visiting in China, said the drop in inflation is excellent news and should lead to an early cut in interest rates.

Harish said lower interest rates would make shekel-denominated deposits less attractive, helping the country's exporters who have been struggling with the effects of a strong shekel.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper also welcomed the negative CPI. "Now is time to revive growth," he said. "Interest rates must be cut immediately by 2 to 3% with possible further cuts in the future."

Amir Peretz, chairman of the Histadrut's trade union section, said the news was a Pessah gift, and good news for employers and workers alike.

The Bank of Israel would normally wait until the April index is published to lower interest rates, since inflation is pushed up by consumer spending for the Pessah holiday. However, the central bank may be pressured to make a cut sooner.

The one somewhat worrying element in the CPI, which may give the central bank pause, was the continued rise in wholesale

producer prices, which rose 0.8% in March, driven by clothing and footwear, energy products, and machinery and equipment.

The main factor that drove the March index down was a 6.1% drop in fruit and vegetables, which contributed to a 0.3% drop in the CPI. Without the drop in fruit and vegetable prices the index would have risen by 0.2%.

The other key elements in the lower index were clothing and footwear, which fell by 2.1%, contributing -0.1% to the index, and housing which fell by 0.4% and contributed -0.1% to the index.

It was the first time since early 1992 that the housing index has been negative. The rental index fell by 0.7%.

These figures reflect January-February trends, the Central Bureau of Statistics noted. House maintenance costs were unchanged. Whether a one-month slowdown in home prices will be sustainable is unclear since the building inputs index continued to rise in March, adding 0.8% to stand at 133.6. So far this year, building inputs have risen by 2.8%. The main contributors to the rise last month were higher raw material costs and higher labor, equipment and haulage costs.

The fall in clothing and footwear prices was largely seasonal, and adjusted for seasonal factors they would have risen 0.5%.

The main elements of the CPI which rose were education/leisure and transport/communications.

Transport and communications prices rose by 1.3% and contributed 0.2% to the CPI. Bus fares rose 7%, car insurance 1% and car prices 1%.

Tourism prices rose sharply with hotel prices rising 10.5%, guest houses 22.5%, and organized tours 11.7%.

Meat, fish, tea and coffee prices rose sharply while soft drink prices fell.

IDF soldier wounded in Lebanon

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

AN IDF soldier was seriously wounded Friday in a mortar attack on an IDF post in south Lebanon.

The soldier was injured when gunmen unleashed a heavy artillery barrage on an IDF outpost at Ghizlane, in the security zone's eastern sector, South Lebanon Army sources said. He was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for treatment, and his parents spent the night at his bedside. Last night his condition stabilized, Israel Radio reported.

The incident sparked exchanges of fire in the sector between the IDF, the SLA and the terrorists.

The gunmen, operating from hills facing the zone, also fired five Katyusha rockets into the town of Aishiyeh inside the zone, but no casualties were reported.

Israeli and SLA gunmen retaliated with artillery fire onto areas outside the zone where Hizbullah gunmen are active. There was no immediate report of casualties in the retaliatory bombardment.

Yesterday, Hizbullah and IDF troops fought artillery duels which set a hospital afire, security sources said.

A nurse, three SLA troops and a Hizbullah gunman were wounded in the hostilities touched off by a hit-and-run Hizbullah attack on an SLA outpost at daybreak, the sources said.

The gunmen raked the SLA outpost in the zone's eastern sector with mortar fire and rocket-

Train-bus collision in Egypt kills 44

QUWEISNA, Egypt (Reuters) - At least 44 people were killed and 45 injured yesterday when a mainline Egyptian train smashed into a bus packed with textile workers on their way to a Nile Delta factory, a police general said.

The wreckage of the bus, mixed up with shoes and clothing, was spread over 200 meters of track near a level crossing on the outskirts of the Delta town of Quweisna, 55 km north of Cairo.

(Continued on Page 2)

NPT conference to begin amid Egyptian indecision

MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

ON the eve of the month-long United Nations conference on renewing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Egypt said yesterday that it had yet to make a final decision on extending its participation in the accord.

After a meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and US senator Hank Brown, presidential adviser Osama Baz told reporters that everything depended on last-minute negotiations.

The conference is set to open tomorrow in New York, but Egypt is resisting an indefinite extension unless Israel gives some commitment to sign the treaty at some time in the future.

The United States and the other nuclear states have been campaigning for the indefinite extension, which would in effect freeze the status quo for ever.

"Our position depends on the progress that can be achieved between now and the voting. We are giving Israel every opportunity to move. Then we will decide which way to go," Baz said.

Israel, which has never admitted to having nuclear weapons, has refused to sign the treaty as

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The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Music Director: Zubin Mehta

Announce the opening of a competition for the Composition of a Symphonic Work, to mark the IPO's Sixtieth Anniversary

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israel Music Institute announce the opening of a competition for the composition of a symphonic work, which will be part of the Orchestra's sixtieth anniversary celebrations.

- The competition is open to composers of Israeli nationality (no age limit).
- Duration of work: 20-25 minutes.
- Works are to be submitted anonymously (as stated in the Competition Regulations).
- Works should be submitted to the Israel Music Institute, not later than May 31, 1996.
- The Competition Regulations are available from the Israel Music Institute, and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.
- The final stage of the competition will take place in October 1996, on a date to be announced.

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Tight security for holiday

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

PESSAH seders were held on Friday night amid tight security throughout the country.

The territories were sealed off and Palestinians in Hebron were put under curfew as thousands of extra IDF troops were deployed.

The security forces shot and wounded two Israeli Arabs who fled a roadblock near Maccabim on Friday, police said.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said soldiers and police firing weapons chased the car to a nearby Arab village where it stopped. Two of the car's three occupants were wounded, one of them seriously. A third Israeli Arab escaped. Bar-Chen said the three were apparently car thieves and the car had been stolen in Rehovot several days ago.

The curfew on Hebron was imposed Friday morning until further notice for what the army called "security reasons."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said the restrictions heightened resentment of the settlers in the already tense town.

"The curfew on Hebron is not for

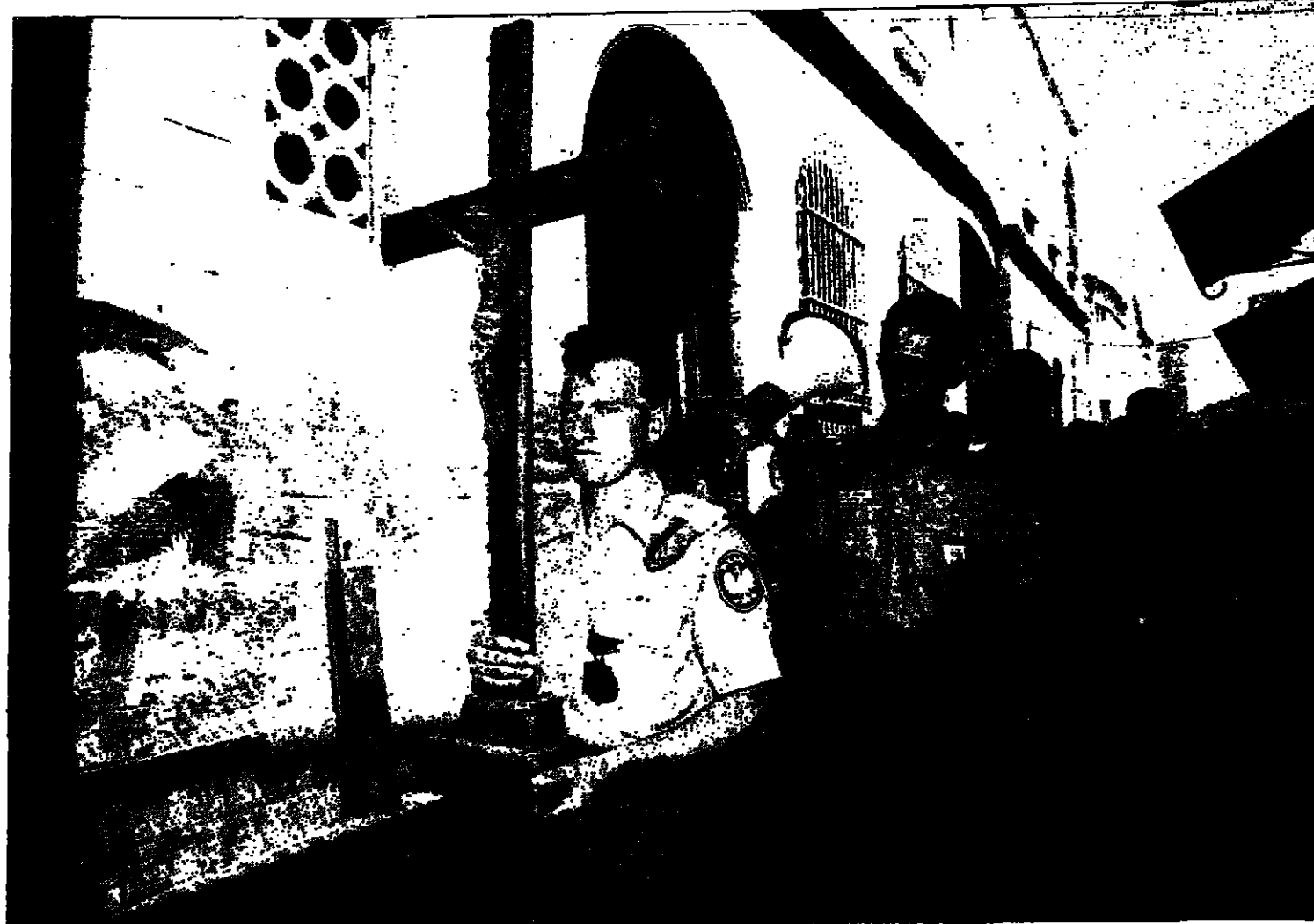
security reasons, but to make sure that several hundred Jews living in the city will enjoy their holiday," Natshe said. "The Israeli government... does not understand that it cannot punish a whole city just because of a few settler families."

The army imposed the curfew at 3 a.m. Friday, barring all Palestinians in Hebron from leaving their homes. The restrictions were lifted 32 hours later, at 11 a.m. yesterday, but troops announced over loudspeakers that the ban was to be reimposed by 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people visited the Western Galilee and other vacation spots around the country, while thousands of Christians marked Good Friday, marching through Jerusalem's walled Old City to retrace Christ's steps toward crucifixion.

FLO chief Yasser Arafat extended holiday greetings to Israel.

"I would like to convey to Prime Minister Rabin and the government of Israel and all the people of Israel my best wishes for a happy Pessah," he said.



UN soldiers from Poland make a Good Friday procession through the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem's Old City.

(Brian Hendler)

Christians throng to Old City for Good Friday

THOUSANDS of Christians, some lugging heavy wooden crosses, others video cameras, marched through Jerusalem's Old City on Good Friday to retrace Christ's steps toward crucifixion.

Pilgrims and brown-robed monks passed along the Via Dolorosa kneeling in prayer at the 14 stations marking Christ's suffering.

They converged at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the reput-

ed site of Jesus's crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Latin canticles sung by Franciscan monks mixed with a cacophony of hymns in a multitude of languages. The sounds echoed through the cavernous 12th century basilica.

This year's ritual came as Israel sealed off the territories to prevent violence, which meant only a few hundred Palestinian Christians with special permits reached Friday's procession.

Civil administration spokes-

woman Maj. Elise Shazar said permits were given to all Palestinian Christians who applied. She said she did not know how many entry permits were issued.

Many visiting Christians appeared unaware of the conflict, and the Old City was packed with pilgrims from the US, Africa and Europe.

Keith Compton, a retired civil servant from Sydney, Australia, heaved a solid wood cross onto his shoulder. "This is tremen-

dous. We are following in Christ's footsteps, in his agony. It is one thing to do it in your own church, but it hasn't got the same depth of feeling as being in the actual spot," Compton said.

In a signal of Israel's improving relations with the Moslem world, a group of pilgrims from Indonesia took part in the procession. The pilgrims said they had wanted to come for years but were only now given permission by their Moslem government. (AP)

Medieval Haggadah opened for Sarajevo's Pessah

SARAJEVO (AP) — A medieval Haggadah brought from Spain more than 500 years ago was opened yesterday for only the third time in a half-century to mark the Pessah holiday here.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Moslem, attended the modest ceremony for the besieged city's 1,000 Jews, where prayers were read from the Sarajevo Haggadah's magnificently illustrated, bleached-leather pages.

"Just as the Jews of Sarajevo have managed, despite hardship and heartbreak, to remain in this city, so has the Sarajevo Haggadah," said a statement released by Sarajevo's Jewish community.

The Sarajevo Haggadah was written between 1320-1350 in northern Spain, and is acclaimed as one of finest illuminated medieval manuscripts in existence. When the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, they took the book with them.

The Haggadah eventually found its way into Sarajevo's National Museum in 1894.

When the Nazis occupied Bosnia they attempted to confiscate the book in 1941. But it had been removed from the museum by an Islamic scholar and hidden under the floorboards of a peasant hut in the

mountains.

The fragile manuscript was opened once in 1966 for a few hours to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Spanish Jews arriving in Sarajevo. It was opened again during an exhibition on Sarajevo's Jews.

When war broke out in Bosnia three years ago, it was widely reported to have been destroyed or stolen. Its location is still a closely guarded secret.

Some people would like to see the Haggadah removed from the Bosnian capital for safe-keeping and restoration. But others fear that a trip out of the city would be more dangerous than leaving it, and that the book would not be returned.

At yesterday's ceremony, Islamic, Roman Catholic and Orthodox religious leaders joined officials of Bosnia's multi-denominational government.

"Stay in this country, because this is your country," Izetbegovic told worshippers. "Our goal is that this become a tolerant community of all religions and nationalities, and together with you we will achieve that."

Outside, the war continued. Just minutes before the service, sniper bullets killed the second French UN soldier in as many days.

UNIFIL rapped after officers attend IDF-SLA drill

BEIRUT (AP) — UNIFIL came under harsh criticism Friday after some of its officers attended joint military exercises with IDF and SLA troops in the security zone.

Hizbullah said the presence of UN officers at the drills "contradicted the mandate of these [UNIFIL] forces to help Lebanon and its government to end the occupation."

Haj Hussein Khalil, chief of Hizbullah's Political Bureau, said the development was tantamount to an "international legalization of the occupation."

Several other Lebanese politicians and parliament members have issued statements deploring the presence of UNIFIL officers

at the security zone maneuvers.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, whose Syrian-backed Amal militia rivals Hizbullah for mastery of the one million Shi'ites in Lebanon, has demanded an explanation from UNIFIL's command.

IDF and SLA troops staged war games inside the security zone Tuesday.

Tanks, helicopter gunships and field artillery were used in the one-hour maneuvers in the foothills of Mount Hermon.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said only two junior officers of UNIFIL's Norwegian battalion attended the exercises on their own initiative without UN

authorization.

"It's not a shift in policy," he told AP by telephone from his headquarters in Nakoura. "It's a personal mistake of the two officers and [disciplinary] measures are being considered."

Three other UN officers of the Observer Group Lebanon, a small unit charged with monitoring the 1948 armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel, also attended the drills. OGL was dispatched to the region in 1949.

The war games apparently were designed to lift the morale of the 2,500-strong SLA, which lost five soldiers in a Hizbullah ambush in the security zone Sunday.

TRAIN

(Continued from Page 1)

"It was horrible. The bus started moving and for the next few seconds all I saw was my friends scattered all over the line," said Ghada Mohamed, 25, one of the survivors.

"All the workers were shouting 'There's a train coming. There's a train coming' but it was too late," added Sanaa Arafat Mohamed, 23, another survivor.

"The next thing I knew I was flying up in the air and there were bodies everywhere," she told Reuters at Quweisna hospital, where most of the dead and injured were taken.

Police Major-General Mohamed Khidr, assistant interior minister for the central Delta region, told reporters that the 44 confirmed dead included at least eight traveling on the roof of the train — a common practice in Egypt.

Mohamed and other witnesses said two trains had been approaching the level crossing at about the same time, 6:50 a.m. When the first had gone, the bus driver decided to drive on and the second train hit the bus smack in the side.

The bus belonged to the Mistr Menoufia Spinning and Weaving Company and had collected workers from the nearby town of Shibin al-Khayma to take them to the factory in Quweisna.

The train, taking passengers to Cairo from the Nile Delta town of Tanta, was undamaged and later went on to Cairo, railway officials in Cairo said.

Distraught peasants from the villages came to Quweisna hospital carrying white shrouds for their sons and daughters.

But many of the bodies were so fragmented that the hospital authorities were having trouble piecing them together. At least seven of the bodies could not be identified.

General Khidr said bus driver Ibrahim Faragallah, who died instantly, was clearly to blame for the disaster.

"The bus shouldn't have been carrying so many people, either," he added. "It had a limit of 52 people but it seems it had more than 70 aboard."

Adel Fouad, an official of the textile company, said the company would pay the relatives compensation.

Ship with French aid for Gaza docks in Port Said

PORT SAID (Reuters) — A ship carrying French medical and other humanitarian aid bound for the Palestinian Authority arrived here yesterday.

The cargo, a donation from the French aid agency Equilibre, includes 12 mobile medical units and eight trucks with drugs and other medical equipment worth 2.9 million francs (\$600,000).

Egyptian port authorities agreed to waive taxes on the cargo, which Equilibre is calling its "peace caravan."

Writer Marek Halter, who is organizing the operation, told Reuters the aim was to help PA Chairman Yasser Arafat convince the Palestinians that peace was worth it. "It is not enough to take firm positions towards extremists, without also being able to give the Palestinians the better living conditions they have been waiting for since peace was signed," he said.

Halter said he expected the cargo to arrive in Gaza tomorrow.

Brown: Assad in no rush

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad reiterated that he is in no rush to complete a peace deal with Israel before the 1996 Israeli and American elections, Senator Hank Brown (R-Colorado) said Friday.

Brown, chairman of the Senate Near East subcommittee, is due to return today from a week-long visit to the Middle East. He spent Thursday in Damascus, including an unscheduled three-hour meeting with Assad.

Interviewed from Cairo, Brown told *The Jerusalem Post* that Assad insists that he will make peace with Israel only in exchange for the entire Golan Heights.

President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher have said recently that crucial decisions must soon be made by Israeli and Syrian leaders due to the upcoming political campaigns.

"I had suggested that our prospects lay in getting things done this year," Brown said of the pre-election time constraints.

"He responded that for him, time didn't make any difference, that he didn't care how long it took."

Brown said that Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, with whom he also met, both "seemed interested in an agreement," but that their hard-line positions "did emphasize for me how difficult the negotiations are because of his inflexibility."

Assad rejected the notion that Israel should obtain advantageous security arrangements in exchange for withdrawing from the Golan. That issue has held up progress in Israeli-Syrian ambassadorial talks here, Israeli officials have claimed.

"He emphasized his insistence on the '67 borders,'" Brown said. "It seemed impossible he would compromise on the territorial dimension. He very clearly demanded that he had to have 100% of the territory, including the other principles — equal treatment of each party on all aspects of the settlement."

"He went to some length to explain there was no particular military advantage to the Golan Heights. I think the implication is that Israel shouldn't receive any special provisions to adjust for giving it up. ... He indicated at great lengths everything should be equal," Brown added.

Brown's scheduled visit to the Syrian side of the Golan was canceled due to the meeting with Assad.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman dies in car crash

Nurit Lipworth, 71, of Netanya was killed yesterday when her husband, Edward, 74, apparently lost control of their car and it ran off the road and overturned south of Haifa. An ambulance crew declared the wife dead at the scene and took the husband, with undisclosed injuries, to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Thirteen persons were killed and 34 seriously injured in road accidents last week. Police suspended the licenses of 144 drivers guilty of serious offenses. Since January 1, 175 have been killed on the country's roads.

Itim

Road worker crushed by steamroller

Daniel Barzilai, 35, a Public Works Department worker from Yavne, was crushed to death early Friday morning by a steamroller near Petah Tikva. Police arrested the steamroller driver, a Romanian worker, for operating it negligently.

Itim

Dubai airport refuses Israelis in transit

A group of Israelis was refused entry into Dubai's international airport as transit passengers, airport security sources said yesterday. The group of 20 arrived Thursday from the Omani capital of Muscat aboard a Kuwait Airways flight apparently on their way back to Israel after attending a water pollution conference in Oman.

The plane was forced to fly the Israelis back to Muscat, said the sources.

AP

Jaffa man held for espionage

Talal Awad, 33, of Jaffa was arrested by the security forces last week on suspicion of unspecified charges of passing information to a foreign agent. At a remand hearing on Friday, Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court released him on NIS 25,000 bond and confiscated his passport.

Itim

NPT

(Continued from Page 1)

long as it faces enemies such as Iran, Iraq and Libya.

The treaty has been undercut by rampant suspicion that, despite obligations undertaken by the 170-plus states that have signed the treaty, the terms are ignored, violated or simply inadequate.

The extension debate also has been sidetracked by the dispute between Cairo and Jerusalem over Israel's refusal to sign, drawing attention to the fact that the treaty is not universal.

In addition, "most of Israel's neighbors see its undeclared nuclear status as a direct military threat that the United States and its allies have allowed to grow while strongly pressuring the rest of the region to forego the nuclear option," according to Spurgeon M. Keeney, Jr., executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington.

India and Pakistan also have refused to sign the NPT, but their refusal has not been a significant issue in the debate. "Other states in the region do not see either Pakistan or India as threats to their security, with or without nuclear weapons," said Keeney.

Despite some optimistic re-

ports in the last 10 days, it appears that the US still has to scramble to get sufficient support to pass an indefinite extension of the treaty.

The treaty commits the five nuclear-weapons states — the US, Russia, China, Britain and France — not to give weapons to non-nuclear-weapons states. Russia's \$800 million deal with Iran for nuclear reactors seems to breach its treaty obligations, observers said, because the reactors could be put to military uses.

The five also are lagging on their pledges to make progress toward disarmament. Some non-nuclear states have said they cannot support indefinite extension because they would lose any leverage in forcing the five to disarm. Among them there is some support for an extension for a fixed period that would be linked to the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

The strength of the treaty is also scored because non-nuclear states can flaunt or elude their treaty commitments. North Korea, for example, signed the NPT in 1985, but reneged on safeguard agreements when international inspectors found signs of cheating.

SOLDIER

(Continued from Page 1)

propelled grenades, the sources said.

The three wounded SLA soldiers were evacuated to a Marjayoun hospital.

IDF and SLA positions struck back with prolonged barrages of 155mm howitzer and tank cannon fire on suspected Hizbullah bases at four predominantly Shi'ite villages in the western sector of the Bekaa Valley.

Ten houses were damaged in the village of Ein el-Tineh, where the gunman was wounded, said the sources.

Hizbullah positions unleashed volleys of Katyusha rockets on Marjayoun and its environs at mid-afternoon behind sustained mortar fire, the sources said.

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Cave of the Patriarchs - Ma'arat Hamachpela. Prayers at Abraham Hall and tour.
Visit the studio of Shmuel Mushnik, the artist.
Museum and tour at Beit Hadassah, Hevron.
Avraham Avinu neighborhood, the restored Jewish Quarter in Hevron.
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Demos in Baghdad as Iraq rejects UN oil-sale plan

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq yesterday rejected a UN offer to sell \$2 billion worth of its oil and launched a massive campaign of anti-US propaganda and street demonstrations reminiscent of the days before the 1991 Gulf war.

"I think the voices of the masses have expressed the Iraqi stand. What you have heard from the people is rejection to this decision," parliament speaker Sadi Mahdi Saleh told Associated Press Television at a rally in the capital.

Thousands of people, most of them government employees, staged two noisy demonstrations in Baghdad where leaders of the ruling Baath party unleashed a verbal attack on the Clinton administration.

"We need to fight the holy war against Satan America until our victory," said Abdul Gani Abdul Ghafoor, chief of the Baghdad chapter of the ruling party.

Both demonstrations appeared organized by the government.

The UN Security Council voted Friday to allow Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion of oil over 180 days to get money partly to pay for humanitarian needs.

Iraqis are suffering deep privations under the UN trade sanctions imposed after their government's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The UN proposal was aimed at relieving some of the country's misery.

However, Iraq wants the sanctions lifted completely. It refused a 1991 proposal for a similar oil sale, charging that its conditions infringed on its sovereignty, and

Iraqi officials are raising the same objections to the new offer.

"The new resolution is worse and more dangerous than previous resolutions," Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, which met under President Saddam Hussein, said in a statement earlier in the day.

"More struggle and steadfastness are needed to defend Iraq's rights, counter the injustice it is suffering because of the cruel sanctions and strengthen the position of compassionate nations inside and outside the Security Council at the next session," the council said.

The council said the draft would be referred to parliament, which has never challenged Saddam's decisions. No time was set for a parliament meeting.

Within hours of the statement, the government said it was increasing the monthly quota of flour that the government doles out to its people from six kg to eight kg per person.

State-run Youth Radio, run by Saddam's eldest son Uday, broadcast interviews with what it described as "ordinary Iraqis," who all criticized the resolution.

However, other Iraqis interviewed by foreign reporters felt the government's stubbornness would lead to further misery.

"Oh God, where do we go now?" asked one middle-aged man who would not give his name.

There is little chance the Security Council will soon lift the sanctions, which include a ban on sales of oil, the country's economic lifeline.



British stuntmen dressed as Soviet Army soldiers perform a spectacular explosive crash last week during filming of the new James Bond movie, 'The Golden Eye,' in St. Petersburg, Russia. (AP)

2 French soldiers killed in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO — UN officers expressed shock at the sniping death of a French peacekeeper in Sarajevo yesterday but said they could do little to retaliate for the killing of two French soldiers in two days.

The shooting occurred as Admiral Jacques Lanxade, chief of France's defense staff, arrived in Sarajevo to discuss the safety of peacekeeping forces.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur also sent Defense Minister Francois Leotard to Sarajevo after yesterday's sniping and issued a statement condemning the "odious act."

The body of the French soldier shot by a sniper in a Muslim-controlled area of the Sarajevo was flown to the Croatian port of Split yesterday on its way home.

"We're numb after the death of another French peacekeeper," said Lt.-Col. Gary Coward, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo.

Coward said peacekeepers had fired back at the sniper position with three 20mm cannon rounds but the UN was limited in its ability to retaliate.

"There is a serious limitation on how we could respond even if we were able to say who was responsible for the shootings. There's not a lot we can do," Coward said.

"The time to respond in a peacekeeping mission such as ours is during the incident. Once it's over there's not much hope for the kind of retaliation some people might hope for," he said.

France urged the United Nations to quickly identify those responsible for the deliberate killing of one of its 4,200 peacekeepers serving in Bosnia.

"France expresses its indignation over the cowardly assassination of another French soldier of the United Nations protective forces," Balladur's office said in a statement.

Tokyo trembles at terrorist threat

TOKYO (AP) — Helicopters patrolled Tokyo's skies and thousands of police, some in bullet-proof vests and riot gear, guarded train stations yesterday in response to a prediction of disaster by the cult suspected in the city's nerve gas attack.

Two department stores were closed and classes were suspended at several schools. Streets and trains in Tokyo's central Shinjuku district were unusually empty.

Police also guarded movie theaters, airports and sports stadiums. The military's largest chemical warfare unit was placed on alert, reports said.

No incidents had been reported by late afternoon. The massive mobilization, involving more than 10,000 police in Tokyo alone, demonstrated how frightened the city has become since the March 20 nerve gas attack on its subway system killed 11 and sickened thousands.

The religious cult Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, is the chief suspect in that attack. It denies involvement.

Police inspectors for the first time yesterday determined that the cult made sarin, the nerve gas used in the subway attack, in a building at its compound at the foot of Mount Fuji in central Japan, according to the public NHK television network. The police agency would not confirm or deny the report.

Daily searches at cult facilities since the attack have turned up

tons of chemicals and equipment that police say could have been used to make sarin.

But yesterday's discovery, if true, would be the first time police had found the nerve gas itself, and not just its ingredients. The cult says the chemicals on its property were to make fertilizers, computer chips and other products.

In a book published last month, the sect's leader, Shoko Asahara, predicted that disaster would strike Tokyo yesterday, sparking fears of an attack by the group.

Chief government spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the fears might be baseless, "but we must be cautious about everything so

that the people can be free of worry."

Cult members warned relatives and friends that a "horrible" event might happen in Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's most popular entertainment districts.

Even people who had nothing to do with the cult were heading news reports and staying home. Many who did venture out were nervous.

"My family told me not to come to Shinjuku today," said Kyoko Yoshida, a recent college graduate. "But I have a job interview."

Grim-faced policemen patrolled the Shinjuku station, normally the world's busiest. Their protective riot shields were

propped against several walls.

"We have had a variety of calls warning something would happen," said one officer. "We're taking them seriously."

Tokyo hospitals were urged to stock up on nerve gas antidotes as a precaution against an attack, newspapers said.

Even railway maintenance workers were pressed into security duty, and patrolled the station — a vast multi-tiered maze of shops and corridors — wearing helmets and bright yellow work clothes.

"It's scary," said Yuki Sakai, on a visit to Tokyo from the countryside. "It seems like Aum members could be hiding anywhere."

Winnie Mandela refuses to comment on her re-sacking

BOKSBOURG (Reuters) — Winnie Mandela appeared in public yesterday for the first time since her repeat sacking as deputy arts minister by her estranged husband, President Nelson Mandela.

But she refused to respond to reporters' questions about her dismissal two days after her reinstatement because an earlier firing from the position was invalid.

Mrs. Mandela attended a service in a graveyard east of Johannesburg to unveil a new headstone for Chris Hani, a popular black leader assassinated two years ago by right-wing whites. The original gravestone had been vandalized.

She arrived in a luxury German car half-way through the ceremony, sending whispers through the crowd of about 500 people. She had to wait several minutes while officials arranged chairs on the dais so she and her daughters, Zindzi and Zenani, could join dignitaries, including her husband.

He stared straight ahead and did not acknowledge her presence during the ceremony.

Mrs. Mandela ignored questions from waiting reporters when she left after the ceremony and was whisked away by bodyguards.

The president sacked her as arts, culture, science and technology deputy minister on March 27 but reinstated her on Wednesday after she brought a legal action contesting the validity of the dismissal procedure.

Sacking her again on Friday Mandela said: "The overriding consideration... is what the president believes is necessary in pursuit of good government and the interests of the whole country."

He has said why he dismissed Winnie but party sources said the main reason was her defiance earlier this year of an instruction to cancel a trip to West Africa.

Passion play shocks abbey worshippers

LONDON (Reuters) — An Easter play in which Jesus was referred to as "pigshit" and "a sorry looking bastard" left some of its Westminster Abbey congregation shocked and tearful.

The traditional Good Friday play in London's leading Protestant church about the last hours and crucifixion of Jesus was littered with swear words.

In one scene an actor remarked to another as they carried the cross into the Abbey, "If you drop it, I'll cut your balls off". During the crucifixion, Jesus was taunted with shouts of "Jewboy".

The Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume left after 30 minutes, saying he would have preferred something "more meditative."

A member of the audience said yesterday: "It was very frightening, it gave me a stomach ache."

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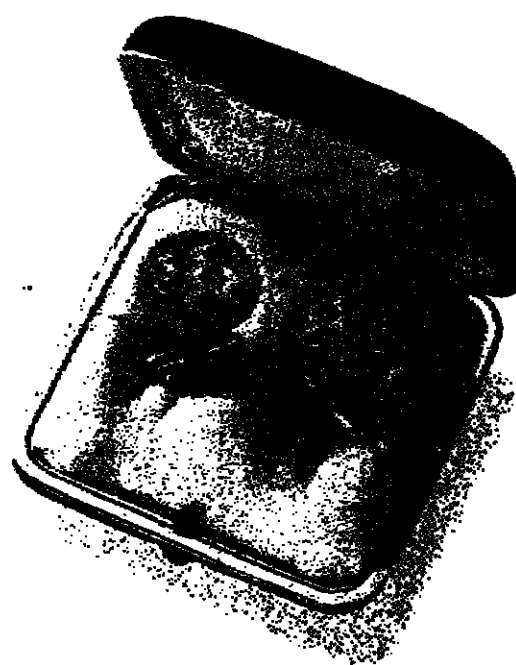
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Fishing talks fail; Canada threatens Spanish trawlers

OTTAWA (AP) — Canada's fisheries minister threatened to resume actions against Spanish trawlers immediately after diplomatic efforts to end a dispute over turbot fishing faltered.

Talks between diplomats from Canada and the 15-member European Union in Brussels, Belgium, broke down Friday over rescheduling quotas for turbot in the northwest Atlantic. No negotiations were scheduled over the Easter weekend.

Canada's fisheries minister, Brian Tobin, blamed the failure on Spain, who along with Portugal, are the only EU members with turbot fleets fishing off Canada.

"Spain has repeatedly and systematically sabotaged attempts at agreement," Tobin told reporters. "For our part we will go no further. We will make no more concessions."

Tobin said Canadian patrol boats could move against Spanish trawlers immediately.

In Madrid, Spain's fisheries minister Luis Ajenza accused his Canadian counterpart yesterday of causing fishing talks to stall and said Canadian threats would not force Spain to change its negotiating position.

"We're now used to the fact that each time the talks get to a delicate spot, Tobin makes things more difficult with threats and ultimatums," Ajenza said in a statement.

"Our position has always been flexible but firm in the defense of the interests of Spanish fishermen," Ajenza added.

Canada touched off the latest round in the fishing row last month when it seized a Spanish trawler scooping up turbot on the Grand Banks off Newfoundland province, outside Canada's 200-mile limit. Patrol boats later cut the nets of a second Spanish boat.

Spain in turn retaliated by sending two warships to the area.

Canadian officials said 17 Spanish boats were fishing off the Grand Banks Friday evening and two Spanish naval vessels were nearby. About half a dozen Canadian fisheries and coast guard boats and the naval frigate HMCS Gatineau are in the area with a second warship on its way.



Marie and Gummy, two elephants from the zoological park in Thoiry, west of Paris, try Easter eggs made by Viscountess de la Panouse in the grounds of the park. Every year, the viscountess offers Easter eggs to children who visit the park during the holiday.

Dollar's instability threatens APEC

News agencies
BALI

PLANS to achieve free trade in the Pacific basin are threatened by instability in world money markets, Indonesia's vice president told the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum yesterday.

Overshadowed by the dollar-yen crisis, finance ministers of the 18-member APEC completed bilateral meetings in advance of their annual conference.

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura look set to conduct a dialogue of the deaf.

Rubin is expected to press for more action to bring down Tokyo's towering trade surplus; Takemura to demand US measures to rein in the rampaging yen against the dollar. Neither is likely to be satisfied.

"I don't believe the (world) open market system can function the way it should when the second largest economy in the world has substantially less access to it than the other major

trading nations," Rubin said yesterday.

The one-day session today was not expected to produce an easy fix to continuing currency woes. APEC officials said. A joint statement at the close was expected to offer only a broad look at recent economic upheavals.

The dollar has fallen more than 15 percent against the yen this year, also bringing down many Asian currencies pegged to the US currency. Their exports have become cheaper relative to Japanese ones, but they find it more difficult to buy imports or pay back loans to Japan in yen.

APEC leaders agreed in Bogor, Indonesia in November on a master plan to sweep aside barriers to trade and investment in the

Pacific basin in 25 years.

The Bogor Declaration is non-binding and vague, but, if carried out, the ambitious vision could turn the Pacific rim into the most open trading area in the world.

Some countries reacted to the yen's rise by diversifying their foreign currency holdings by selling off dollars to buy yen.

About 40 percent of Indonesia's debt of almost \$100 billion at present exchange rates is denominated in yen, and depreciation of the rupiah translates into a big increase in repayment.

Rubin and Takemura are undoubtedly the key players at Bali. They are scheduled to confer privately today on the fringes of the APEC gathering.

The official agenda will focus on short-term capital flows, recent foreign-exchange movements and ways to avoid negative side effects of rapid and speculative market movements.

Participants are also expected to discuss creation of an APEC currency stabilization fund aimed at helping members cope with international financial stress involving foreign exchange out-

flow, such as the peso crisis in Mexico, itself an APEC member.

In a speech in Los Angeles on his way to Bali, Rubin said the US-led \$50 billion support package for Mexico is showing signs of progress in that country's economy.

He warned that increasingly large and fast capital flows in the world mean a higher chance of economic crises similar to what happened after Mexico devalued its peso in December.

The impact reached Asia a month later, with several currencies coming under selling pressure. Among the hardest hit were the Thai baht, the Indonesian rupiah, the Philippine peso and the Hong Kong dollar.

APEC, formed in 1989 as an informal dialogue group, now describes itself as "the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic cooperation."

It includes ASEAN, the six Asian nations of Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines plus the United States, Japan, Chile, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Turkish Cypriots vote for president

NICOSIA (Renter) — Turkish Cypriots voted yesterday in presidential elections with veteran leader Rauf Denktaş challenged by a former ally and under international pressure to reach a deal with Greek Cypriots in the south.

"If the people appreciate what I've done, I will win in the first round," Denktaş, the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, told reporters after voting at a polling station in the Turkish sector of divided Nicosia.

Denktaş built his campaign on the value of his experienced leadership for a settlement in Cyprus. He said all elements of a solution were present.

"Everything that is necessary for a solution is on the negotiating table," he said.

Denktaş has been a leader of the Turkish Cypriot community since the 1970s. He became president in 1983 when Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared independence and is seeking a third term. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern third of the island in response to a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Only Turkey recognizes the breakaway state, subsidizing its crippled economy and keeping 30,000 troops there. Turkish Cypriot products are barred from most Western markets and the north's 160,000 people endure daily power cuts.

Denktaş is facing a hard challenge from Derviş Eroglu, his one-time lieutenant, former prime minister and chairman of the National Unity Party (UBP).

Chief returning officer Salih Dayioglu said he expected a high turnout of at least 90 percent.

Seven candidates are running. If none secures over 50 percent a second round of voting will take place on April 22.

Denktaş and Eroglu barely

differ on the Cyprus issue which has become embroiled in the historical enmity between Greece and Turkey and aspirations of both Turkey and the Greek Cypriot government to join the European Union.

Across the UN-patrolled Green Line that cuts through Nicosia and the whole island, Greek Cypriot newspapers played down what they called the "illegal" elections in the north.

The Republic of Cyprus government did not comment but *Phileletheros*, the south's leading newspaper, said the polls would be the hardest for Denktaş who might not win the first round.

Newspapers said Turkey wanted Denktaş to win because he was the most experienced politician with the strength to make "concessions" to solve the Cyprus problem.

"If somebody blocks this process towards Europe now and tells Greek Cypriots 'you have everything on the table for a settlement, go and settle it and then come jointly', then I think the Greek Cypriot side will come to the negotiating table with a serious intention to settle," Denktaş said.

Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said yesterday he would send troops to liberate Cyprus from Turkish occupation if he won Russia's 1996 presidential election.

"If I get elected and if the government of Cyprus asked me to send Russian troops, I would," Zhirinovskiy said after arriving in the divided Mediterranean island on a three-day private visit.

"The Turkish occupation here contravenes the principles and resolutions of the UN," he told journalists at Larnaca airport.

Zhirinovskiy is visiting Cyprus at the invitation of a Greek Cypriot businessman. He will not meet Cypriot officials.

Gov't, opposition to discuss end to Tajik-Afghan fighting

MOSCOW (AP) — Tajik government officials and leaders of the opposition are expected to begin negotiations in Moscow tomorrow in an effort to bring a halt to fighting on the Tajik-Afghan border, news reports said yesterday.

The newspaper *Sogodnya* said the talks were organized by UN envoy Ramiro Piriz Ballon.

Fighting along the Tajik-Afghan border broke out April 7 when Moslem rebels launched a week-long attack on border guard posts.

The fighting abated yesterday night, with only sporadic attacks on border guard posts, the Internews agency said yesterday.

At least 35 border guards have been killed and 79 wounded since the rebels began their offensive.

The Moslem rebels are battling the traditionally communist government of Tajik President Esmat Rakhmonov. Rakhmonov has the help of several thousand Russian border guards and troops from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The Russian military command said this week that the rebels appeared to be trying to seize the Badkhan region, 700 kilometers (430 miles) southwest of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, as a springboard for an major offensive into central Tajikistan.

Russian and UN officials fear the renewed fighting might completely destroy a shaky September 1994 cease-fire between the government and the Islamic opposition.

President Boris Yeltsin, vacationing at the Black Sea resort of Sochi, told the ITAR-Tass news agency yesterday that there is only one solution for the troubles in Tajikistan, "a peaceful one."

He expressed condolences to the families of border guards who died in the fighting and said, "they were fulfilling tasks important for the Commonwealth of Independent States to maintain peace and stability in Tajikistan."

Yeltsin said the commonwealth defense and foreign ministers should meet "as soon as possible" to work out measures for stabilizing the situation in Tajikistan.

A delegation from Russia's upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, arrived in the Tajik capital Dushanbe to assess the border guards' situation.

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Details of these events, and of settlement possibilities in the Jordan Valley, from 177-022-2280.

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An apple a day may keep cancer away

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE old aphorism "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" isn't far from the mark. Oncology researchers now believe that a healthful diet with a big dose of fruits and vegetables can reduce your risk of getting cancer by half or even two-thirds.

Since smoking is responsible for almost all lung cancers (and many other types), that and diet — both environmental elements — seem to be considerably more important than genes in the development of cancer.

The European Cancer League and the Israeli Cancer Association (which is a member) are so convinced of the efficacy of a proper diet in preventing cancers that they are promoting healthful diets among their nationals.

The ICA recently organized a special lunch in a Tel Aviv hotel and commissioned the writing of a recipe booklet, edited by Ruth Sirkis and professionally supervised by Irit Poraz, director of the nutrition and diet department at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva.

The Hebrew-language, 20-page booklet, called *Livriut U'letayavon* ("To Health and Appetite") is being distributed to 100,000 homes around the country over the Pessah holiday. Anyone who hasn't received it may call the ICA at 03-571-7888 and order a free copy.

A lifetime of eating fruits and vegetables, while not an ironclad guarantee against tumors, offers considerable protection against cancer, says Poraz. Vitamin and mineral supplements, she says, cannot serve as an adequate substitute, as fresh and frozen produce contain beneficial natural substances that cannot be duplicated in a pill. "In addition, no one is sure what doses of vitamin and mineral pills are optimal or even helpful; I don't recommend taking supplements."

The ICA recommends avoiding being overweight, reducing the intake of fats, increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables and dietary fiber, drinking alcohol (if at all) in moderation, and reducing the amount of preserved, salty and smoked foods in your diet.

High blood-cholesterol levels have been linked to cancer of the colon, prostate and lung, but very low levels of cholesterol (below 180 mg/dL) increase the risk of cancer, especially of the colon; the reason is not yet understood.

Nutrition experts now recommend reducing intake of fats to less than 30 percent of your entire input of calories, and of saturated fats to less than 10 percent of daily calories (not more than 75 grams of fat altogether).

Fruits and vegetables contain antioxidants such as vitamins A, C and E, which

reduce the amount of free oxygen radicals in the body; these harmful substances are known to be involved in tumor formation.

The cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and radish) also have much protective value, not only for their fiber and dithione, but also for their natural supply of selenium and zinc.

Fruits and vegetables, as well as wine, contain flavonoids; nuts, seeds and legumes contain coumarins and phenols; soy beans have protease inhibitors and isoflavones, which may help protect against breast cancer in women and prostate cancer in men; and onions and garlic have allium: these offer protection.

Smoked, salty and other processed and preserved foods can be high in nitrates and nitrites, which in large amounts have the potential of promoting cancer after they come in contact with amines in the acidic environment of the stomach. Poraz recommends eating less than six grams of salt (including that in canned and otherwise preserved food) a day, because too much salt raises the risk of stomach cancer.

Cutting your intake of coffee is also recommended, because it has been implicated in cancer of the bladder and pancreas and maybe even of the ovaries. Poraz recommends that healthy people — who have not been prescribed a special diet for chronic illnesses — should eat at least five servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Examples of a serving are 100 grams (or two-thirds of a cup) of vegetables; half a grapefruit; one apple or peach; two plums or two tangerines (*clementinas*).

Asked whether the overuse of pesticides on fruits and vegetables might make eating a lot of produce less healthful than desired, Poraz said that the Health and Agriculture Ministries are responsible for ensuring that these are not oversprayed and for testing samples. "Public pressure will help see to it that they are carrying out that responsibility. In general, it's a good idea to wash fruits and vegetables carefully with soap and water, although that alone will not rid them of all pesticides. In any case, eating fruits and vegetables, even if they were oversprayed, is more healthful than consuming smoked meats every day."

She advises eating fresh whole fruits and vegetables as much as possible. Cutting them up into tiny pieces — especially a long time before a meal — substantially reduces their nutritional value, as light and oxygen cause vitamins to deteriorate. Frozen produce can often contain more nutrients than fresh because nutrients are lost in the time between harvesting and eating. If you cook vegetables, do it with a small amount of water and for a short time, so as not to break down the nutrients, says Poraz. Poraz bemoans the growing Israeli tendency to copy the American diet of junk food, from hamburgers to french fries and ice cream. "The Mediterranean diet that has been traditional here for many years is really the best for preventing cancer. Schools should be teaching proper diet to all pupils from the earliest ages."

Here is a sample recipe from the ICA booklet:



The Israeli Cancer Association's 20-page booklet titled 'Livriut U'letayavon' ('To Health and Appetite') contains enticing and healthful recipes.

Cabbage Salad in Peanut Dressing
1 small white cabbage, cut finely
125 grams of roasted, unsalted, shelled

peanuts, chopped
2 red peppers, cleaned of seeds and chopped finely
1 Tbsp. soy sauce
4 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. oil
1 tsp. sweet paprika
pinch of pepper
2 tsp. brown sugar
Place the cabbage in a salad bowl. Mix the other ingredients in a separate container to make the sauce. Mix half of it well into the salad, and pour the rest over it.

Microwaving won't kill parasites in fish

Rx FOR READERS
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I've been told that fresh fish should not be cooked in a microwave oven because any parasites in them won't be killed by the microwaves. But I've heard it's all right to microwave frozen fish, because freezing kills parasites. Is this true? S.Z.D., Jerusalem.

Dr. Shoshana Weissman, director of the Institute for Food Microbiology and Consumer Goods in Haifa, replies:

Microwave ovens are meant for heating, not sterilization of food. I conducted tests on ground meat and found bacteria weren't killed unless the temperature reached at least 70°C. In addition, the temperature must be uniform throughout the food; otherwise, bacteria will remain alive deep inside the food but be killed in the outer layers, which heat up faster.

Parasites can live in the human digestive system, but it is rare for parasites native to fish to attack humans as well. Samples of all imported fish are checked for parasites by the Agriculture Ministry's veterinary service. Any fish found to have them is not allowed into the country.

But if there are parasites in fish that can harm humans, they will be killed only at high temperatures — at least 100°C. Bacteria are measured in thousands of a millimeter, while parasites are 10 to 100 times bigger and can be seen under a magnifying glass. Because they are larger, it takes higher temperatures to kill them.

Freezing kills neither parasites nor bacteria; it only keeps them from multiplying. In our lab we preserve bacterial cultures in below-zero temperatures, and hospitals keep sperm deep-frozen for years.

How much you heat fish to kill any parasites depends on the type of microwave oven you have. One without a rotating plate will not heat the food as uniformly as one that has such a feature.

Consult the manufacturer's instruction booklet and buy a food thermometer (that you insert in the food) to determine its internal temperature. If it reaches 100°C or more, you don't have to

worry about either parasites or bacteria in fish, or about bacteria in meat or poultry (these two never have parasites).

When you lie on your arm and get up, the fingers tingle but the feeling goes away quickly. That is normal. But when this happens and the tingling feeling lasts much longer than usual and well into the day, what does it mean? S.S., Nevech Eitan.

Dr. Avraham Steinberg, a senior neurologist at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, replies:

If you compress a nerve, such as by lying on your hand or arm, it is normal to affect sensation for a few minutes or even an hour. In this case, there's no need to worry. However, if the tingling sensation goes on for longer than an hour, or occurs without outside pressure and doesn't go away, it may be a sign of damage to the nerve, and a physician should be consulted.

I heard that using waxed dental floss is not advisable because bacteria can grow in the wax residue on the teeth. Is this true? Or are waxed and unwaxed the same? S.G., Kirou.

Dr. H. S.-C. of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine replies:

Dental floss is dental floss. Dentists have traditionally preferred unwaxed floss (for some unknown reason), but patients often find it easier to slip waxed floss between the teeth. If this encourages you to floss, use the waxed type. Studies have failed to show that bacteria stick to or grow in wax residue on the teeth.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Doctors gripe, but love work

POST HEALTH REPORTER

DESPITE all their griping about long hours, inadequate pay and too much red tape, most of Israel's primary-care physicians wouldn't want to do anything else.

A new national survey of general practitioners and family doctors, conducted by the JDC-Brookdale Institute, has found that 91 percent "still find interest" in their work and 89 percent "really enjoy" their job. Only 6 percent would switch to a different profession offering the same wages and conditions.

However, a third felt there was "no logic" to certain aspects of their work, and half claimed to be stuck with a lot of useless paperwork.

The study, by Revital Gross and Dan Yuval of JDC, Yona Japhet of the Hadassah Medical Organization and Winkie Boerma of the Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care, was part of an international study by the Dutch institute and funded by the European Community. The data was collected through a mailed questionnaire and compiled in a 32-page report.

Two-thirds of primary-care physicians are men. They range in age from 30 to 86, with the average age 48. Some 60 percent earn only salaries, 24 percent are independent and 16 percent both get a salary and work independently. Almost half have only one workplace, while the rest moonlight at Magen David Adom, a private practice in the community or an administrative job. Two-thirds work for Kupat Holim Clalit, and the rest for one or more of the other three health funds.

The average GP has 1,422 patients, but nearly a third are responsible for as many as 2,000 patients. They claim to work an average of 51 hours a week, including clinic hours, special duty and additional training courses. They see 34 patients and field nine consultation calls by phone on an average day. Most patients get 10 to 15 minutes of a doctor's time. Nine out of 10 doctors say they make house calls, usually about five a week. Most of them also visit their patients in hospital.

Many doctors regard preventive medicine as important. More than two-thirds routinely check their patients' blood pres-



A doctor examines a young patient; a new survey claims 89 percent of doctors 'really enjoy' their jobs. (Noveck)

sure, two-fifths check blood sugar regularly, and a quarter of them take a Pap smear from women at risk for cervical cancer.

But most clinics have only a minimum of equipment, so for treatment such as sewing up wounds and tests like a blood count, many doctors refer patients to the health fund's lab, to a specialist, or a hospital emergency room.

The authors conclude that it may be worthwhile to invest in the purchase of certain equipment and the training of doctors

to perform certain invasive procedures to save patients' time and reduce costs. But this would require better pay for doctors so they could reduce their patient load and spend more time with each one.

The authors also found that hospital doctors usually don't maintain adequate contacts with primary-care physicians of patients for whom they are responsible during short- or long-term hospitalization, even though coordination between them can simplify treatment.

Steroids can help ease cancer pain

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

STEROIDS can help terminal cancer patients feel better and can also improve their appetite, but many doctors are normally reluctant to use these powerful drugs because they can cause serious side effects.

Drs. A. Adansky, M. Berkowitz and A. Waller of Sheba Hospital's hospice for the dying in Tel Hashomer report in the latest issue of *Harefuah* on their use of steroids to ease the suffering of terminal patients. A total of 3,700 patients have passed through the hospice to as comfortable a death as possible since it opened in 1983.

Of 100 who agreed to take part in clinical trials, 55 were given steroids. These drugs fight inflammation, reduce nausea and counteract pain. Extended use can cause serious side effects. But the average hospice patient dies within 16 days of arrival. The authors maintain that the potential benefits of steroids in some terminal patients are greater than the potential complications.

Routine use of steroids for dying cancer patients is still not accepted, because of "the lack of enough convincing evidence in medical literature," the authors note. But the drugs should nevertheless be tried. If steroids don't cause an improvement in five to seven days, dosage can and should be halted without causing additional medical problems, the Sheba doctors write. In any case, steroid treatment should be stopped when the patient goes into a coma.

ISRAELI CANCER DRUG

FDA-APPROVED FOR TESTS

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved clinical testing of a potential cancer drug developed by a Bar-Ilan University researcher. Worldwide patent rights have already been obtained for the drug, AN-9, and its analogs, by Prof. Abraham Nudelman, head of the university's chemistry department.

AN-9 is designed to overcome some of the body's defense mechanisms, which often prevent drugs from reaching their desired target sites in order to destroy a tumor. Active substances are often metabolized and excreted so fast that the amount of the drug present in the body at any time is so small it cannot be effective. But according to Nudelman, AN-9 uses a "suitable drug-delivery system" that allows the drug to reach the tissues without being eliminated from the body before it can do its job.

Animal tests have found AN-9 to be effective in the treatment of lung cancer and melanoma (the most malignant skin cancer). It is also easily prepared and has very few side effects, says Nudelman, who developed the drug in close cooperation with Dr. Ada Rephaeli and Prof. Mati Shaklai of Beilinson Hospital.

ANSAN, a California bio-tech subsidiary of the Titan Corporation, has obtained license rights to AN-9 and will supervise its clinical testing in the US. Clinical trials will also be done in Israel.

ONE-DAY LENSES

Talk about disposables. After developing contact lenses worn for a week and then thrown out, two US companies — Johnson & Johnson and Bausch and Lomb — have invented a new type that you wear for only 24 hours. They're not environmentally friendly, and they cost \$700 a year, but they eliminate the need to buy lens cleaner and the danger of infections from wearing week-long lenses.

Conventional contact-lens wearers must perform a nightly ritual of taking out their lenses, rubbing them in cleaner, then placing them in a disinfectant solution overnight. Once a week, wearers must immerse the lenses in an enzyme solution that removes accrued deposits.

While a fresh pair once a year

might cost less than \$100, the solutions and enzyme pills add about \$150 to \$200 a year to that total. Of the estimated 27 million contact-lens wearers in the US, a fifth wear disposables.

AIDS TARGETS WOMEN

More than half of all new HIV carriers in Israel are women, according to the Israel AIDS Task Force. This trend is especially worrisome because they are infected through heterosexual sex, and pregnant women can transmit the disease to their babies.

The task force notes that between 1987 and 1992, of every 15 new HIV carriers detected here, one was a woman. Today, one in two is a woman. Women are four times as likely to be infected by a male carrier of the deadly virus than a man is to be infected by a female carrier of the deadly virus; this is due to the physiological differences between the sexes and greater ignorance of the dangers of AIDS among women. For example, polls show that many believe a contraceptive pill can protect them against AIDS.

PRECIOUS-BABY SYNDROME

Children conceived by *in-vitro* fertilization are more likely to be the objects of over-concern and anxiety by their mothers. This conclusion was reached in recently published research at the University of Haifa's school of social work. A representative sample of 120 married, young Jewish women was studied. They were divided into four groups: those undergoing fertility treatments; women who became pregnant as a result of IVF; women who gave birth after IVF; and a control group of women who gave birth after conceiving naturally.

The women who underwent fertility treatments suffered physical and emotional difficulties, but their relationship with their husband was "strengthened" as a result. Children resulting from IVF were regarded by their mothers as "more loved" and "special" than the other children because "they were difficult to achieve." The IVF mothers were less willing to take risks regarding their children and kept them at a closer range than the others. The researcher, the late Rina Levant-Dubrovsky, recommended that every couple undergoing IVF should be matched with a professional adviser who will help them deal emotionally with their child and ease their anxiety.

FDA NIXES KEEPSAKE ULTRASOUNDS

The US Food and Drug Administration has decided to crack down on companies that perform ultrasound scans for pregnant women who want a "video memento" of the fetus. The companies offer such videos, which are edited to include music, graphics and even subtitles, in shopping centers and even private homes. A diagnostic ultrasound scan performed by trained technicians or doctors takes a few minutes; some of the "entertainment ultrasound" companies in the US (with names like Peek-a-Boo and Womb with a View) scan the fetus for as long as an hour to get "good visual material," according to a *Washington Post* report. But needless or prolonged ultrasound scans could harm the fetus.

"Persons who promote, sell or lease ultrasound equipment for making 'keepsake' fetal videos should know that we view this as an unapproved use of a medical device, and that we are prepared to take regulatory action against those who engage in such misuse of medical equipment," the FDA declared.

"From a medical standpoint, ultrasound generally is considered safe and is properly used when medical information on a pregnancy is needed. But it cannot be regarded as completely innocuous." Laboratory studies show ultrasound can produce physical effects in tissue such as a rise in temperature.

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Peace process suspended

THE government may not openly say so, but there is no escaping the impression that it has decided to suspend the peace process. The talks with the PLO may officially go on, but the implementation of the next phase of the Oslo agreement is now conditioned on the Palestinian Authority's ability to suppress terrorism. And as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Thursday, "It may take months before we can determine whether the Palestinian Authority's clampdown on terror cells in Gaza is effective and the PA is taking control of affairs."

Despite the highly publicized "crackdown" on Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives, Yasser Arafat's commitment to fighting the terrorists is clearly less than complete. The revelation that last month he told Chicago Cardinal Bernardin and his entourage that Israeli security forces had planned and executed the Beit Lid massacre "in order to kill the peace process" betrays either a tenuous connection with reality or an abiding faith in the power of the big lie. That the search for a scapegoat and the compulsion to evade responsibility still dominate Arafat's thinking casts doubt on his willingness to make war on terrorism.

Under the circumstances, Rabin's caution is understandable, and it is undoubtedly welcome by the vast majority of Israelis. The prevalence of this "go slow" mood has also prompted Rabin to extend the closure on the administered territories to the whole week of the Pesach holiday. This may not ensure complete security inside the Green Line, but it will certainly enhance the feeling of personal safety.

Unfortunately, even when he follows the people's more hawkish wishes, Rabin seems incapable of controlling his proclivity for

attacking the settlers. On the eve of the holiday, immediately after visiting the wounded in the Gaza terrorist attacks, he found it necessary to point out that the number of soldiers killed in Gaza rose last year, while the number of civilian victims, none of whom was a resident of the Gaza settlements, diminished. "This attests to the high price the IDF, Border Police, and police pay for security," he said.

That he is never prompted to make the same kind of comparisons in the North, where the military/civilian casualty ratio is even more disproportionate, reflects his negative attitude to the Gaza settlements. He seems oblivious to the fact that these communities were established by his own Labor Party for security reasons. He would obviously prefer to effect a separation between Israel and Gaza, something the settlements make more well-nigh impossible.

Yet it is doubtful such a separation, a euphemism for closure, can be maintained for long. World pressure on Israel to end the closure is becoming heavier every day. The closure produces not only hardship but a growing number of terrorists, say the policy's critics, while the increasing instability in the Strip and the PLO leadership's corruption diminish the prospects of foreign investment and a hoped-for economic independence.

Rabin may wish Gaza to disappear, and most Israelis probably would like to have it separated from the rest of the country by a China Wall. But developments may prove it is not the settlements in the area that are "a bone in Israel's throat," as Environment Minister Yossi Sarid last week described Netzarim, but the whole Gaza Strip. It is one of those problems for which no immediate solution is apparent, and for which the cure is often worse than the disease.

The tourist problem

THE experiences of *Jerusalem Post* reporters pretending to be tourists, related in Friday's magazine section, are far from encouraging. Tourism is not only one of Israel's main hard currency-earning industries. It is Israel's best way of making itself known to millions of visitors, virtually all of whom are subjected to one-sided and often tendentious reporting about the country. Even many of the travel guides have become instruments of anti-Israel misinformation and PLO propaganda, a unique phenomenon in a business purportedly apolitical.

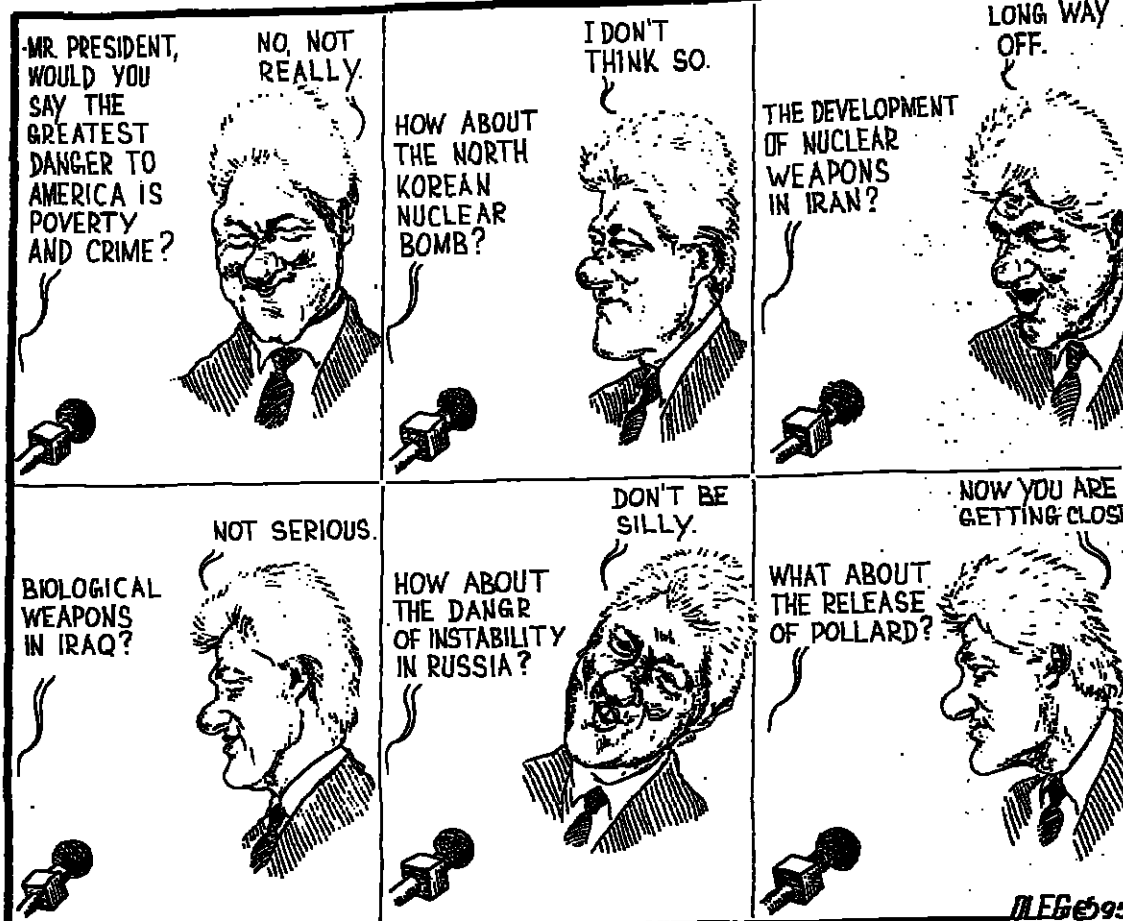
Most countries today consider themselves tourist attractions, and they try to make themselves "tourist friendly." But Israel is lagging in tending to the most basic tourist requirements. Whether it is the unavailability of clean public toilets or the absence of road signs in English (or the inane use of pseudo-German spelling for place names), there is little consideration for the visitor. This is true particularly outside the major cities, but even in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa the kind of services which make visitors feel welcome and want to return are largely missing.

True, a large percentage of tourists come to Israel in groups. Their tours are organized and guided, and they need little by way of government help. But more than a third of the visitors prefer to fend for themselves. If forecasts prove accurate, the number of tourists should exceed 2.5 million this year. But because of a recent

Tourism Ministry decision, the 850,000 who travel independently will find Government Information Offices only at Ben-Gurion Airport and Nazareth.

The Tourism Ministry has decided to close all other government information offices, suggesting that townships and regional authorities assume responsibility for such services. But this is impractical in a small country. The Tel Aviv information office, for example, gives virtually no information about the rest of the country. Such "local patriotism" can only inconvenience and exasperate visitors who use the city as their "headquarters" for trips throughout the country. Another indication of incompetence and inconsideration is the hiatus between the closing of the government information office and the opening of Tel Aviv's information office. That the new Tel Aviv office will be located on the other side of town from the tourist hotels only adds insult to injury.

The *Post* investigation focused on information services and local attitudes in several towns. But much needs to be done in other areas - not least of which is the exorbitant price of hotel accommodations, caused by the shortage of rooms. The facilities at Ben-Gurion Airport, too, must be brought up to contemporary standards. Obviously, nothing can be done about stringent security measures at the airport, but the inconvenience they cause should not be compounded by an airport that is more than a quarter-century behind the times.



The professional killers

I couldn't agree more with Lawrence Rifkin's comments on professional drivers ("Road Hogs" *The Jerusalem Post*, February 21).

Every year I go to Israel for the anniversary of the death of my two nieces, Gili and Amy Amich, my sister's only children, who were killed together by one of Israel's "professional" drivers.

There is no way I would bring any of my large family with me, because I fear for their safety - and that danger comes not from armed terrorists, but from Israelis armed with vehicles.

I have never seen such inconsiderate driving in any other country.

I had hoped that things would improve after the Highway Patrol was established four years ago, after my nieces' death.

But it seems that driving behavior has actually worsened to an alarming degree.

I have been a professional driver for more than 30 years. I am on the road for an average of eight to 10 hours a day.

I used to be a taxi driver, working 12-hour shifts. Now a courier, I drive some 80,000 km a year, and I thought I had seen it all when it comes to driving behavior. But nothing compares to the rude, reckless, lawless and even suicidal risks the average Israeli driver takes every day.

When visiting Israel I don't drive (I wouldn't dare), but am forced to take public transport. I am at a loss to understand why people don't complain to the authorities about the indignities they are subjected to while riding the buses.

Bus drivers seem to have complete disregard for passenger safety and comfort.

I suffer from arthritis, and while this is not noticeable, my joints are extremely painful, especially when I have to hold on very tightly, even when I am seated. The way passengers get thrown around corners is quite agonizing.

Young and old are packed in like sardines, and tossed about like rag dolls while the driver jerks his vehicle into small spaces, races from stop to stop, slams on his brakes, and leans on

JANET MOTHERWELL

his horn at every opportune moment to terrorize the driver of the vehicle in front.

Every journey invites whip-lash, as the driver senselessly maneuvers his multi-ton killing machine at dangerous speeds.

It's no better on the inter-city buses, which are often dangerously overloaded, making the brakes less effective.

Drivers adhere not to the speed limit, only to their schedules.

Ministers and mayors should take a bus ride now and then to experience the horrors of public transport

On one typical occasion, traveling from Ashdod to Jerusalem, I noticed that the driver was going at over 110 kph, and tailgating the vehicle in front, which meant he could not possibly have made a sudden stop, had the need arisen.

Egged shouldn't make its drivers race to keep to their schedules, regardless of rush hours and traffic density.

If necessary, the time allowance for a journey should be extended. How about this rule: "Better arrive alive, than not arrive at all" instead of "If the passengers arrive at all, they must get there in time."

MINISTERS, mayors and officials generally travel in chauffeur-driven cars. They are out of touch with the daily horrors of public transport, such as sardine buses which seem unwilling to give out any information, as though it would hurt to reply courteously. They ought to do some serious personal research, and take a bus ride now and then to see how the public gets treated.

If the government is serious about reducing road accidents (and, incidentally, avoiding lawsuits from irate, or worse, be-

reaved families of tourists killed on the roads), it should act immediately to restrain or replace reckless professional drivers.

With the influx of visitors expected for the Jerusalem 3,000 festivities, Egged and the government need to get their act together urgently.

I would like to offer the following suggestions:

● Every taxi and bus should have standard complaint forms bearing the driver's name and route. Passengers should be able to send the completed form, free post, to a special office that deals with complaints.

Persistent offenders should be fired. After a few such instances, drivers would become aware that they could lose their jobs.

● There should be frequent, random checks of professional driving behavior, perhaps by volunteer inspectors. I'm sure plenty of people would be willing to do this.

● Existing laws should be strictly upheld, regardless of the culprit's status. In Britain, the seniority of, say, a police chief doesn't bestow immunity. The converse is true.

● Fines should hit offenders where it hurts - in their pockets. A 270 NIS fine for dangerously overloading commercial vehicles and putting peoples' lives at risk is laughable.

Use of the car's horn is illegal, except in cases of emergency. This law, presently honored in the breach, should be enforced.

The continual blaring of horns on the highways and in the city causes stress and panic in other motorists. (Drivers sitting at traffic lights who hear a horn blast might step on the accelerator, thinking that they should have moved, only to find that the lights are against them, and that they have just hit a vehicle crossing from the other direction.)

The sorrow that comes from watching our children die is truly terrible.

Something must be done now to replace driver ignorance with consideration and thoughtfulness, and public apathy with responsibility for one's fellow man.

The writer is a professional driver living in England.

Relaxez vous!

EDNA COLLINS

I cannot let "Mongrel Tongue" (*The Jerusalem Post*, April 9) slip by without comment.

There was a time when I might have agreed wholeheartedly with Larry Derfner, but no longer.

"Larding the language" with foreign words - or code-switching, as it is known - isn't a specifically Anglo-Israeli problem.

E. Haugen in *The Norwegian Language in America* tells of "vicious discussions" about the Anglo-Norwegian language problem in Minneapolis as far back as 1881.

And French purists are forever pushing to get "franglais" words and expressions weeded out of their language. But where would English be without terms like rendezvous?

Suppose you want to wish someone *betayavon* before a meal? You can't, in English. There isn't a phrase for it.

The reason for "switching" languages is usually insufficient knowledge of one language, or a lack of facility in a certain subject. The speaker simply feels more at ease discussing that particular topic in another language.

People often consciously emphasize a mixed identity through using two languages in the same conversation. Why should they be denied this?

In many instances, those who switch languages during conversation are those who are highly capable of doing so. In other words, they feel at home in more than just their native language.

Should they desist, just to please Mr. Derfner?

And some people simply want to impress hearers with their lin-

Let's mix our languages merrily. We'll all be the richer for it.

guistic skills. That may be showing off, but where's the harm?

This brings us to the poetic function of language.

Take Ezra Pound. Although not exactly a great friend of the Jewish people, this great poet has been described as "the most accomplished code-switcher," and it is very evident in his "Canto XII."

On a less elevated note, inter-language puns and jokes are part of our lives, and we would be much the poorer if they weren't.

SO, Mr. Derfner, relaxez-vous. Perhaps the people you claim make you cringe are perfectly comfortable with the way they speak.

I can assure you that the moment they find themselves in all-English-speaking company, where they know that it wouldn't be suitable to speak "peppered English," they will soon find the right word (or *mot juste*), even if it takes them a minute or two to get into their stride.

Finally, a word about the "Kfar Hanassi Syndrome," which Derfner refers to.

I am a member of Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, and a teacher at the Hula Valley High School, where the expression originated over 25 years ago, when I first started work there. It was coined by a teacher who was trying to find out why Kfar Hanassi's children didn't excel at English, even though some of them had English-speaking parents.

Perhaps it was because we insisted on speaking Hebrew to our children in those days. At the time, it seemed clear to us that as we were living in Israel, Hebrew was more important than English.

But times and theories have changed since then, and today our kids do as well in English as anybody else's.

I don't talk "new-immigrant-speak," nor do my family, friends or acquaintances. Neither do our children "enter school unable to speak either decent Hebrew or decent English."

Derfner might have had a point 25 years ago, but not today.

My impression is that he hasn't set foot in Kfar Hanassi, or the Hula Valley. Perhaps he would like to come up to our kibbutz and discuss the matter - in English or Hebrew, or both - over a nice cup of English tea.

That, happily, hasn't changed.

The writer is a high school teacher.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Sir, - So, President Clinton has pledged not to launch nuclear attacks against countries that have no nuclear weapons and that agree not to acquire them. This pledge should be immensely reassuring to Israel, as Jerusalem can now "denuclearize" without fear of inciting an American nuclear attack - clearly the very sort of attack that has long highlighted the Jewish State's most urgent security concerns. Moreover, Israel can now also draw extra comfort from President Clinton's reaffirmation that the US would provide "immediate assistance" to states without nuclear weapons in the event they are attacked by nuclear-armed countries. Hence, in the aftermath of, say, an Iranian nuclear attack upon a denuclearized Israel, the Jewish State could draw compensatory benefit from US humanitarian assistance with the logistics of cremation, mercy-killing and mass burial.

What a deal! In view of the current Israeli government's brilliance in managing the "peace process," I would be surprised if Rabin and Peres did not immediately bow and scrape toward Washington (a gesture at which they have become almost perfect), thanking the president for this extraordinary generosity.

LOUIS RENE BÉRES,
Professor of International Law,
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana.

BNEI AKIVA SOUTH AFRICA

Sir, - In Israel, there exists an association of alumni of Bnei Akiva South Africa. We are active in offering hospitality and advice to all immigrants from South Africa, and especially those who were in Bnei Akiva. We organize weekends and are always in touch and ready to organize big events, like the current 60th anniversary of Bnei Akiva South Africa.

Unfortunately, we do not have the addresses of all the alumni here and we would also like to be in touch with those in other parts of the world. Alumni interested in being in touch with us should contact the undersigned at Bar-Ilan University, tel/fax 03-5318457.

Ramat Gan.

ZE'EV SCHWARTZ

HOORAY!

Sir, - Hooray for the Sunday snippets from American periodicals. Hooray for the Monday *New York Times Weekly Review*. Hooray for the *Fix* it column.

But please give us some relief from Oleg's ugly crudeness. Give us more of Meir Ronnen's intelligent incisive cartoons which show us that political cartooning is an art.

MURIEL MOULTON
Kiryat Tivon.

FREE TRADE ZONE IN THE NEGEV

Sir, - With reference to Evelyn Gordon's report of April 4 about a free trade zone in the Negev, I wish to point out that the people of Omer do not object to its establishment, but to the proposed site.

I have attended a number of meetings on this subject. What we are concerned about is the pollution of our water supply and our surroundings, as well as the horrendous traffic problems that will result if this plan is implemented.

An alternative site has been suggested at Neveadim. It is larger, more open and convenient. It would be near the Negev airport, closer to a large unemployed population (Dimona) and to Arah. Busing from Beerseba would not be a problem. Why will the minister of finance not consider it? Why are the members of the government committee so obstinately committed to an unsuitable site? Why won't the potential investors come and see for themselves how much better the alternative site would be?

Surely, the people who live in this area and will be most affected by this decision for generations to come have a right to know the answers to these and other questions and to be consulted.

BARBARA J. FRIEDMAN
and four other residents of Omer.

POSTSCRIPT

THE TERM "drug money" has acquired new meaning in Los Angeles after it was revealed that more than three-quarters of all the paper money in the city has some amount of cocaine or other drug stuck to it.

An appeals court relied on that fact to dismiss a case against a man suspected of drug trafficking.

In powdered form, the court said, cocaine is so sticky that a bit stays behind when a drug dealer wraps it in a bill folded like an envelope or a user snorts it through a dollar used as a makeshift straw. As that bill is pressed against another in a wallet or cash register, those other bills get contaminated, too.

That means, the court said, that virtually everyone in Los Angeles is conceivably at risk of being barked at by drug-sniffing police dogs.

"The bottom line," echoed attorney Jerold Bloom, who defended an Inglewood, Calif., man carrying \$30,000 that prosecutors charged was drug money, "is that anyone with tainted currency can be stopped and alleged to be a drug dealer. That's guilt by association."

IF A NEW YORK neurosurgeon is right, Mary Todd Lincoln, Lucetta Garfield and Ida McKinley all might have made good use of a medical malpractice lawyer.

Dr. Richard Fraser, professor of surgery at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, claims that three assassinated US presidents were all victims of insect doctors.

Fraser says only John Kennedy's head wound produced "an instantly fatal injury." As for presidents John Garfield and William McKinley, both "received substandard medical care after being shot, which probably contributed more to their deaths than the wounds themselves," Fraser writes.

Garfield died of an infection probably caused by his doctors, "who explored the wound with naked fingers 14 times," Fraser says.

McKinley, who also died of infection, was operated on by an obstetrician-gynecologist "who had never operated on a gunshot victim and should have declared himself unqualified," Fraser says.

Instead, McKinley went under the knife in "an ill-equipped, unlit room." The article examines

Abraham Lincoln's assassination in the greatest detail. Fraser concludes it would be "unfair to hold Lincoln's doctors completely responsible for his death.... The damage incurred by the [bullet] was significant, but not devastating, and many people have survived wounds of greater force."

SO WHAT if the Republicans and Democrats had trouble agreeing on changes to America's laws on product liability? It didn't even matter that Democrats almost walked out of a session.

Nope, as long as Sonny Bono was there to pick up the pizza tab. Near the end of a long, cranky night of debate, a Judiciary member suggested that Chairman Henry Hyde order out for pizza.

Hyde said it wasn't within the committee's budget.

But Republican Sonny Bono, the only former singer, former mayor, former partner to Cher on the committee, said he'd ante up. About 15 pizzas soon arrived and were split - in bipartisan fashion - among the group.

An aide to Bono said they wisely avoided any disagreements. "We ordered plain without anything," he said.

مكزائن الأخبار

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, April 16, 1995

Get smarter

BY CHARLES LANE

A few years ago, a senior member of Guatemala's Congress was invited to give a lecture at an institution he had never heard of before: his country's School of Intelligence. Driven to a tightly guarded compound near La Aurora Military Base in Guatemala City, he watched slack-jawed as gates swung open to reveal fountains, neatly trimmed lawns and a glass-and-concrete building. Inside, in an air-conditioned auditorium, 60 members of the Guatemalan Army's notorious intelligence unit, G-2, peppered him with hostile questions. "Why is Congress so inefficient?" they demanded. Picturing Congress' own decrepit offices in the smog-choked city center, the legislator suggested gently that civilian government might function better if it had better facilities.

The plush School of Intelligence, designed and built by the CIA in the late 1980s, stands as a monument to the contradictions of U.S. cold war-era policy toward Central America. We condemned human rights abuses and supported democracy, even as we lavished goodies on the armies responsible for political murders and coup attempts as incentives to humanize. But only grudgingly did the United States ever cut support when these armies failed to keep their part of the bargain. The CIA was especially willing to excuse misfeasance for the sake of the war against Communism and the protection of its intelligence "assets." Central Americans weren't fooled. "The National Endowment for Democracy gave us a few computers and that was it," the former Guatemalan congressman said. "But you could see that the support of the U.S. government was more active to the Army."

Now there's a scandal over the CIA's sponsorship of Col. Julio Alberto Alpirez, a member of both G-2 and the notorious "Kaibil" special forces who allegedly covered up both American innkeeper Michael DeVine's murder in 1990 and the 1992 torture-murder of a Guatemalan guerrilla married to American lawyer Jennifer Harbury. The CIA is charged with withholding information about the murders from the State Department and, possibly, from President Clinton, who rescinded a Reagan-Bush-era covert action "finding" that authorized the CIA to help fight the scattered remnants of a Marxist rebel army in Guatemala, pledges an investigation.

America's cold war struggle has been morally vindicated by the exposure of the true nature and ambitions of the Soviet empire.

The flap illustrates Michael Kinsley's Law of Scandal: the problem isn't what was illegal, it's what was legal. Guatemala's was hardly the only brutal and corrupt army in Central America to benefit from U.S. largesse, covert or overt. Support for the Honduran and Salvadoran militaries was far greater. And the CIA was hardly the only U.S. agency eager for access to, and influence over, Guatemala's G-2 after the Carter-era ban on aid to Guatemala was lifted in 1985. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had a close relationship with both the Guatemalan Treasury Police and G-2 — though key officers and civilian officials themselves were deeply involved in narcotics. (The Clinton administration has said that DEA and CIA anti-drug programs will be exempted from its decision to cut CIA aid.) Before overt help was ended in December 1990 to protest DeVine's killing, the Pentagon, too, delivered \$30 million of equipment and training to the Guatemalan Army. Green Berets trained at the Kaibil base near where DeVine's body was found.

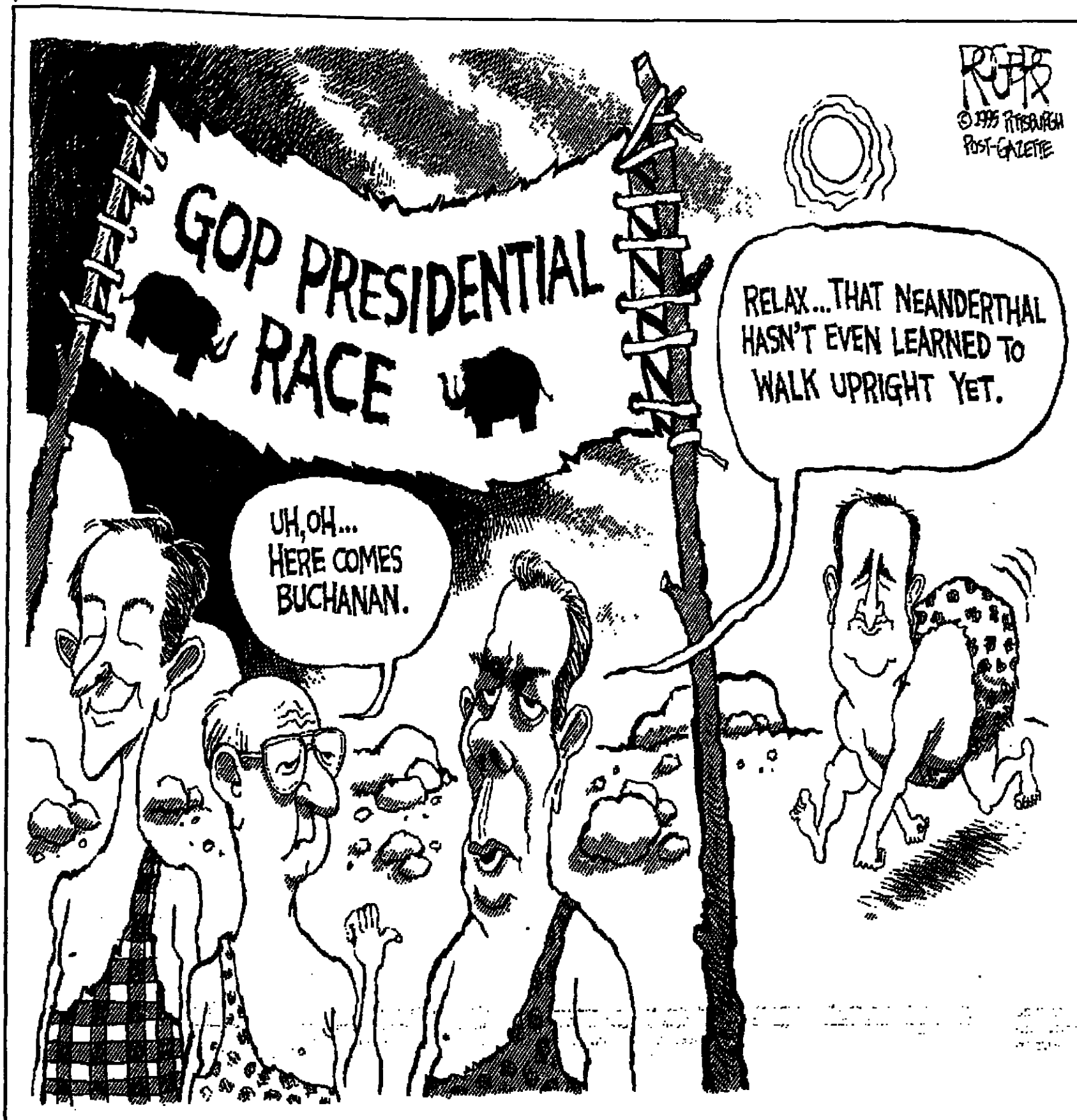
Nor was the reinstatement of military aid to Guatemala an exclusively Republican policy. Throughout the '80s, the Guatemalan Army tried repeatedly to end its pariah status in Washington. It handed the presidency to an elected civilian, Vinicio Cerezo, in 1985, and helped Oliver North channel weapons to the Nicaraguan contras. But Congress refused to grant more than modest, non-lethal aid. Only when Guatemala reverted to opposition to the contras in 1987 did Democrats agree to consider more military aid. In fiscal year 1989, Congress voted \$9 million.

Until the end of the cold war converged with the DeVine murder, there was bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for the notion that Guatemala's Army should be rewarded for whatever modest steps it took toward democratization. The persistent and gutsy Jennifer Harbury has now probably shattered this consensus for good. We will have her to thank if the current scandal results in much-needed days of reckoning for the CIA and its Guatemalan proteges. Yet this is ironic, because her romance with a Guatemalan comandante, portrayed by The New York Times as a chaste pas de deux, is a case study in another cold war-era American illusion about Central America: the romanticization of the left. U.S. policy was often wrong, and the murder of Harbury's husband, Efraim Bamaca, was a war crime. But DeVine was one of that war's innocent victims. The perfidy of some of America's allies does not prove the virtue of America's enemies.

America's cold war struggle has been morally vindicated by the exposure of the true nature and ambitions of the Soviet empire. Yet we won, it must be admitted, partly by making common cause with foreign rulers who themselves were killers and criminals. The price of victory over Communism is to be measured partly in the deaths the United States tolerated. The investigation of CIA activity in Guatemala should focus on what the agency and other agencies knew and when they knew it. But given that America's new wars against drug traffic and terrorism must oblige us to make new unsavory alliances, both critics and supporters of past American policy should treat this as an opportunity to reflect, with appropriate humility, on the moral balance of the Central American chapter of the cold war.

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Let them eat hate

Mexico and its peso crisis will be playing a key role in the 1996 GOP presidential race.

BY ROBERT WRIGHT

As the Republican presidential campaign heats up, expect Mexiphobia to become a theme. Candidates Phil Gramm, Pete Wilson, Pat Buchanan and Arlen Specter have criticized to varying degrees a Mexican "bailout," such as President Clinton's emergency loan package. They are thus poised to apply the lesson taught by pioneering xenophobe Buchanan last time around, when the NAFTA debate was heating up: pandering to fear and loathing of Mexicans is a good way to reach the anxious and the unemployed in blue-collar America. So far, these candidates are combining their red-meat appeal to the downtrodden with plans to do nothing in particular for the downtrodden. This variant of free-lunch populism might be called a "Let them eat hate" strategy.

Buchanan can at least claim consistency. The rest of the lot supported NAFTA. In the wake of the Mexican economic crisis, though, NAFTA's luster has rather dimmed, and bashing the loan package is about the closest a NAFTA supporter can come to erasing his ugly past.

Do NAFTA supporters (like me) really have anything to be ashamed of? Obviously, 1995 hasn't brought the post-NAFTA Mexico we had in mind. So it does sound vaguely plausible when columnist Robert Kuttner writes that, as Mexico crashes, "the credibility of NAFTA's cheerleaders... deserves to crash with it."

Well, first of all, what about the credibility of NAFTA's critics? Ross Perot is acting as if the Mexico of 1995 makes him some kind of Nostradamus. But what he actually envisioned was a Mexico brimming with low-wage jobs;

NAFTA was part of Mexico's strategy of "taking jobs from the United States." Today unemployment in Mexico is high and growing. If Mexicans "took" our jobs, they must have then given them to someone else.

Perot's language — "taking jobs" — gets at the core of the debate. NAFTA's most vocal critics talked as if trade were a zero-sum game, in which Mexico's gains are America's losses. NAFTA boosters conceded that some new Mexican jobs would come at the expense of American jobs — and vice versa — but said more jobs would be created than lost; a thriving Mexico would help America, and an impoverished Mexico would hurt. That was NAFTA's essential premise: non-zero-sumness. If you don't buy it, look around. The coming months of Mexican poverty will cut demand for American goods, boost illegal immigration and remind us that a prosperous neighbor is a good thing.

It may seem strange to invoke a post-NAFTA crisis as vindication of NAFTA's logic. Didn't NAFTA cause the crisis? We "cheerleaders" say no; a crash would have come without NAFTA. Kuttner disagrees. The trade pact probably made the difference, he argued in a recent column. In that column he proudly recalled that one NAFTA critic, Jeff Faux of the Economic Policy Institute, actually predicted in a 1993 paper that "Mexico is heading for an economic crisis." Kuttner omitted the rest of that sentence: "... with or without NAFTA."

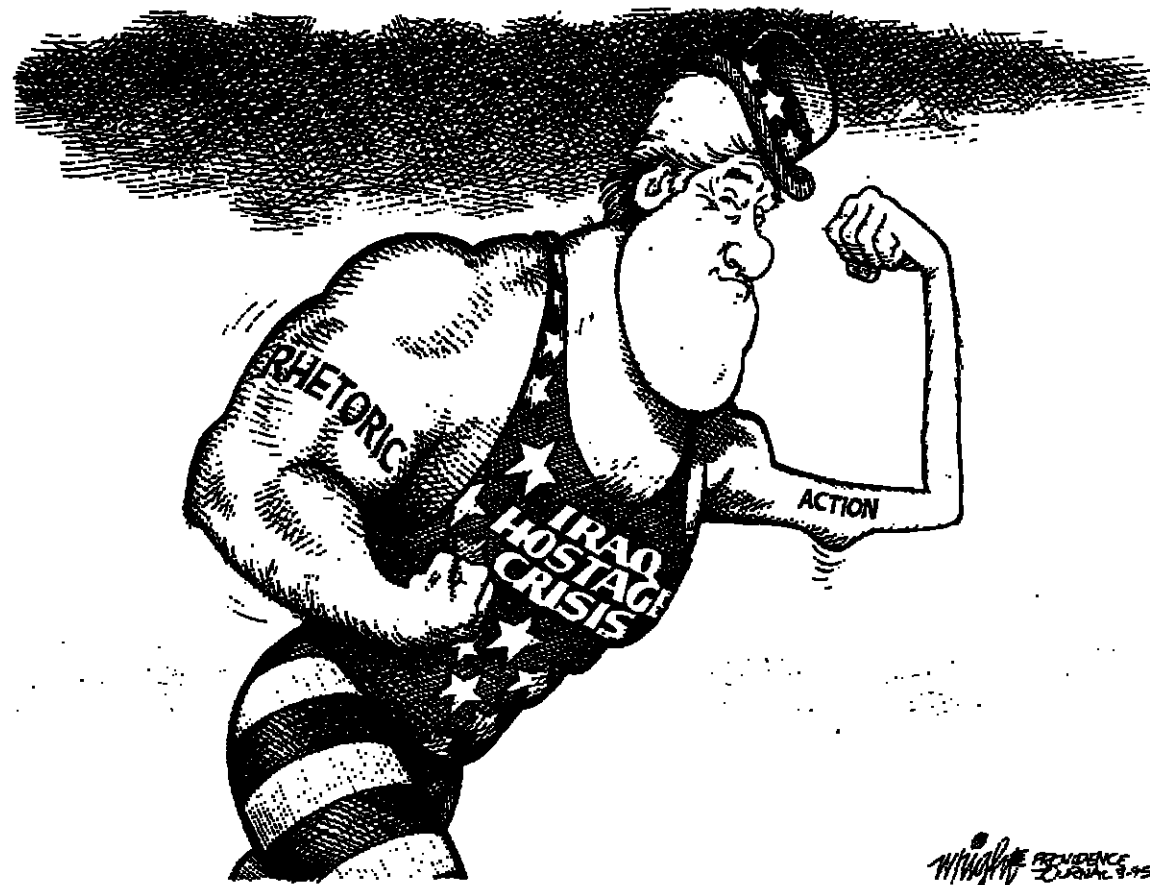
Kuttner also failed to note a larger obstacle to his claim that the peso crash vindicates NAFTA's critics: If the generic anti-NAFTA scenario had been right, and a "giant sucking sound" had ensued, there would have been no crash. Dollars would have headed south much faster than pesos headed north, bidding the peso up. Instead, trade in 1994 did what NAFTA boosters predicted. It grew briskly and symmetrically, and exerted no dramatic pressure on the peso in either direction.

To be sure, if then-President Carlos Salinas had gracefully devalued the peso by 5 percent or 10 percent during his lame-duck months — as most NAFTA boosters hoped — reality would have been slightly closer to Perot's vision. Export growth would have tilted a bit more toward Mexico; the net job growth that NAFTA brought America in 1994 would have been dampened; and the peso would have had a firmer floor at its new level. But the fact remains that if Perot's fears of a massively asymmetrical trade flow had been right, there would have been no devaluation at all.

Kuttner says NAFTA "encouraged Mexico to keep its peso overvalued," thus setting the stage for a crash. Well, if anything encouraged this overvaluation, it was Mexican leaders banking on Perot's line about NAFTA's one-way effects. And I don't see how NAFTA supporters can be blamed for failing to foresee a political reaction whose premise they correctly deemed faulty. Anyway, one thing was fairly predictable: if NAFTA had been defeated, the peso crisis would have happened back then. And there would have been no NAFTA to help Mexico crawl out of the wreckage.

The key to Clinton's Mexican loan package is confidence. If investors believe Mexico can repay its loans, they'll keep investing. The loan package will then have cost America nothing. Opposition to the congressional version of the loan package, led by the Gramm, did real damage to that confidence. Lately the second version of the package, the one unilaterally imposed by Clinton, had finally shown signs of restoring confidence. Now a fresh round of opportunism, led by Senate Banking Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, who wants to kill the package, is scaring investors again. As Republicans position themselves to exploit the "Who Lost Mexico" question, they may become the answer.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Sunrise, Sunset

BOOK REVIEW: *Jews in the Japanese Mind: The History and Uses of a Cultural Stereotype* By David G. Goodman and Masanori Miyazawa

BY IAN BURUMA

You might be surprised to learn that Japan has a foreign Jewish community. Some of whose members are former refugees from Europe, who were relatively well treated by the Japanese government during the war, and who view young Israelis selling trinkets in Tokyo street markets with the same distaste as their forebears did Russian schnorrer giving Jews a bad name in Germany. But most Japanese hardly know what a Jew is.

The Japanese view the Jews as a "pure race" to be worshipped or a monstrous conspiracy to be unmasked. A former cabinet minister named Saito Eisaburo wrote a book in 1984 in which he claimed that Franklin Roosevelt was a Jewish spy. Three years later, a mad Christian preacher from Osaka named Uno Masami warned in two books that "the Jews" were about to provoke an "economic apocalypse," which would enable them to buy up Japan, after which they would destroy the Japanese race by letting African-Americans and Hispanics take Japanese jobs and rape Japanese women. Uno's book sold more than 1 million copies in less than six months. Not only that, but one of the major national newspapers, the Yomiuri Shimbun, took seriously his theory about a Jewish plot to revalue the yen.

At the same time there continues to be a steady stream of Japanese devotees tilling the Holy Land in kibbutzim. And the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam is one of the most popular destinations for young Japanese tourists. But then, as the authors of this fine book observe, Anne has lost her Jewishness in translation. She stands for all innocent victims, including the Japanese victims, of war in general. The sentimental message that war is very bad, and that innocent young people are very good, is a popular one in Japan. With more than 4 million copies sold, *Diary of a Young Girl* found more readers than anywhere outside of the United States. The first cartoon film of Anne Frank's diary has been completed by a Japanese director, and the first Japanese company to market sanitary napkins for Japanese women called itself Anne CO., Ltd. (And Fiddler on the Roof is the longest-running musical in Japanese showbiz history.)

One of the may merits of *Jews in the Japanese Mind* is the way in which David G. Goodman and Masanori Miyazawa manage to tie up these bizarre contradictions. Indeed, they show that they are not always contradictions. Philo-Semitism can be one of the many forms of anti-Semitism. This is true everywhere, so to point it out in Japan may not be news. The real riddle is why these particular ideas, which have so little to do with Japan, have become so popular there? Why the Jews?

Goodman and Miyazawa do not attempt to arrive at a simple answer. They look at the publishing industry, at Japanese policies toward the Middle East, at economic conditions, at religious confusion, at wartime propaganda, at

the rich local history of xenophobia and racialism. Although they do not ignore politics, their main interest is in cultural history.

They trace the roots of modern xenophobic ideology to the late eighteenth century, when, they say, there was a deep "spiritual crisis" in Japan. Buddhism had decayed to the point of death, and Confucianism had no explanations for the meaning of life. In this religious vacuum, Shinto thrived as a form of nativism, and so did various new cults, showing the quickest way to utopia. At the same time the colonial powers threatened to land from the West. And the old Tokugawa regime was crumbling. This led to the fear, among political activists and xenophobic intellectuals, that Japan would be conquered by foreigners and their barbarian ways. Christianity was especially feared.

The Christians, warned a thinker named Ukai Tetsujo (1814-91), aimed "to interconnect people's minds and take over the entire world." First would come the conversion, then control. The Christians' methods were devilishly clever: they would use trade and finance as tools of their conspiracy. Lured by money, the Asians would fall into the trap. Goodman and Miyazawa quote a Confucian scholar named Ohashi Totsuzan (1816-62): "With ever more vulgar trinkets, they offer the necessities of life, sucking out the marrow of the nation, they sap its inimitable strength. Then waiting for the time when the nation is most vulnerable to conquest, they devour it in a single gulp."

I do not wish to make too much of this, but Ohashi sounds like certain contemporary American scholars and novelists warning us about American decadence and the Japanese peril. Goodman and Miyazawa make a different and valid, point: twentieth-century Japanese xenophobes substitute the Christian bogey with the Jew. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a forgery written by a Russian police agent during the Dreyfus affair, was introduced by the Russians when Japanese troops landed in Siberia in 1918, and it fell on fertile soil in Japan. As Goodman and Miyazawa say, it is "widely accepted as authoritative even today." Uno Misami's best-sellers about worldwide Jewish networks plotting to devour Japan are still based on the premises of Protocols. As further evidence of the myth of Jewish omnipotence, Japanese remembered the success of the New York financier Jacob Schiff in securing loans for the Japanese government during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. Ever since, Japanese specialists, and sometimes Japanese governments, too, have oscillated between the wish to keep Japan pure from Jewish influence and to have the Jews on the Japanese side.

This was especially apparent during the 1930s and early '40s. The Japanese government signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany in 1936. Two years later Jewish refugees began to pour into Kobe, Manchuria and Shanghai, which was under Japanese control. Berlin had its own ideas on how the Japanese ought to deal with the situation, and Germans were not slow to give advice. But Itagaki Seishiro, the Japanese Army Minister who was not known for his liberal views on anything, least of all racial matters, formulated the following policy (quoted by Goodman and Miyazawa): "Jews

living in Japan, Manchuria and China are to be treated fairly and in the same manner as other foreign nationals."

Fairness, to the likes of General Itagaki, was a flexible notion, but by and large Japan stuck to this policy. Indeed, Jewish refugees were treated better than many other foreign nationals, especially those nationals who lived in the conquered European colonies. Efforts were also made by official organizations to harness the Jews to the Japanese cause. Dinners were held in Harbin and Shanghai at which Jewish community leaders and Japanese officials drank toasts to the New Order in Asia. For the Jews, this was a matter of survival. But the Japanese experts on Jewish matters prided themselves on their insights into the world affairs. Koyama Takeo, the author of *East Asia and the Jewish Problem*, argued that not only do (the Jews) control global financial empires that have amassed enormous power in China, but they are closely related to world Jewry, which exercises untold covert power in the political, financial and journalistic spheres of the Western nations, so the treatment they receive in Japan and in East Asia will have no small impact in the international sphere.

At the same time, Japanese government propaganda echoed all the paranoid fantasies of the Nazi allies. These fantasies were often peddled by former socialists with a cosmopolitan background. Some of them were Christians. Goodman and Miyazawa mention the example of Kuroda Reiji, a polyglot Marxist, who renounced his socialism in the 1930s (a public apostasy known as *tenko*) and became a ferocious nationalist. He had become convinced, he said, that "for a race to realize its unique culture and national destiny, it must attack and destroy Judaism in all its forms, seen and unseen."

Since many Japanese found it even harder to distinguish Jews from other foreign bodies, the lines between Jews and Anglo-Saxons became more blurred than in Germany or France. This is why American efforts to pry open the Japanese market, or to talk up the Japanese currency, can still conjure up visions of Jewish plots. It is also why authoritarian Japanese politicians, who promote the ideal of a docile, disciplined, monoracial nation, depict the United States as a barbaric, hybrid nation of nothing but Bleisteins.

"Japanese anti-Semitism," Goodman and Miyazawa write, "will cease to be a problem when and to the extent that the Japanese people, and particularly Japanese intellectuals, renew their commitment to face up to and resist their own history." This sounds too vague to me. The future of Japan does not depend on its intellectuals, or on their views on history. It depends on the development of Japan's political institutions. Atago Hokuzan, the anti-Semitic professor, got it the wrong way around. The truth is more like this: the degree to which countries retain a democratic character is precisely the degree to which Jews cease to be a problem.

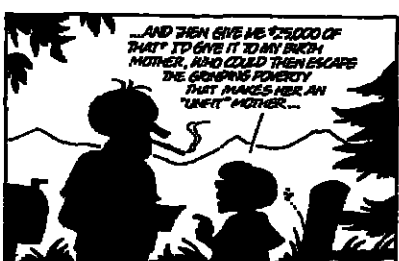
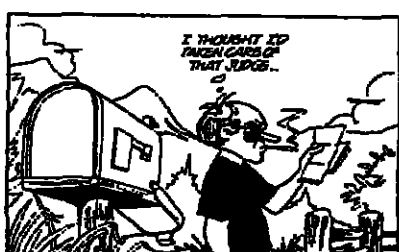
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SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



PEANUTS

SCHULZ



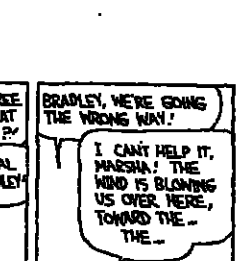
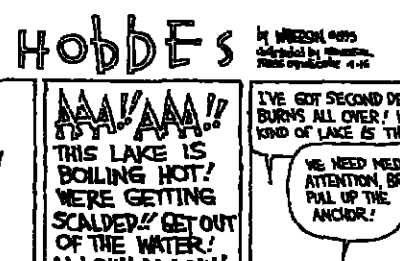
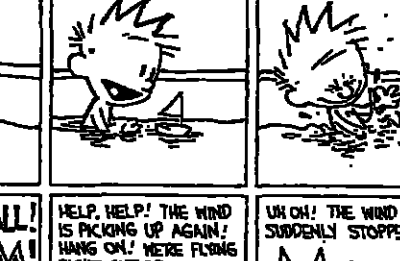
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By Jeff Meyers

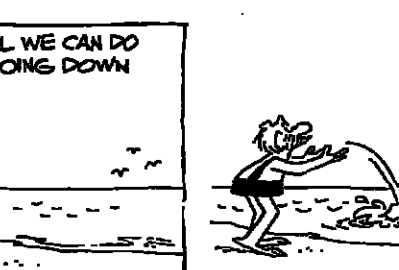
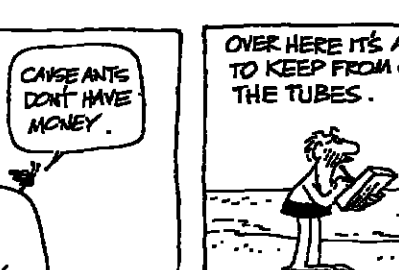
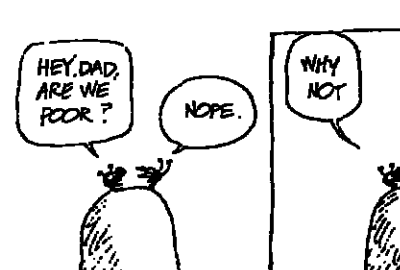
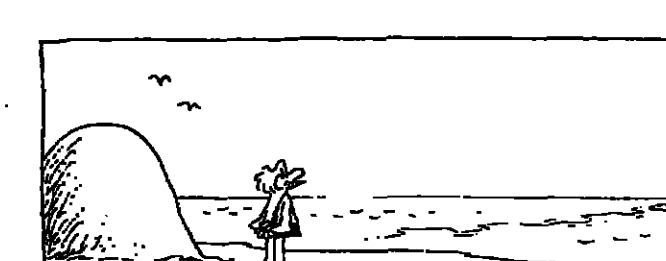


calvin and hobbes

By Bill Watterson



JOANNY HART



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

ACROSS

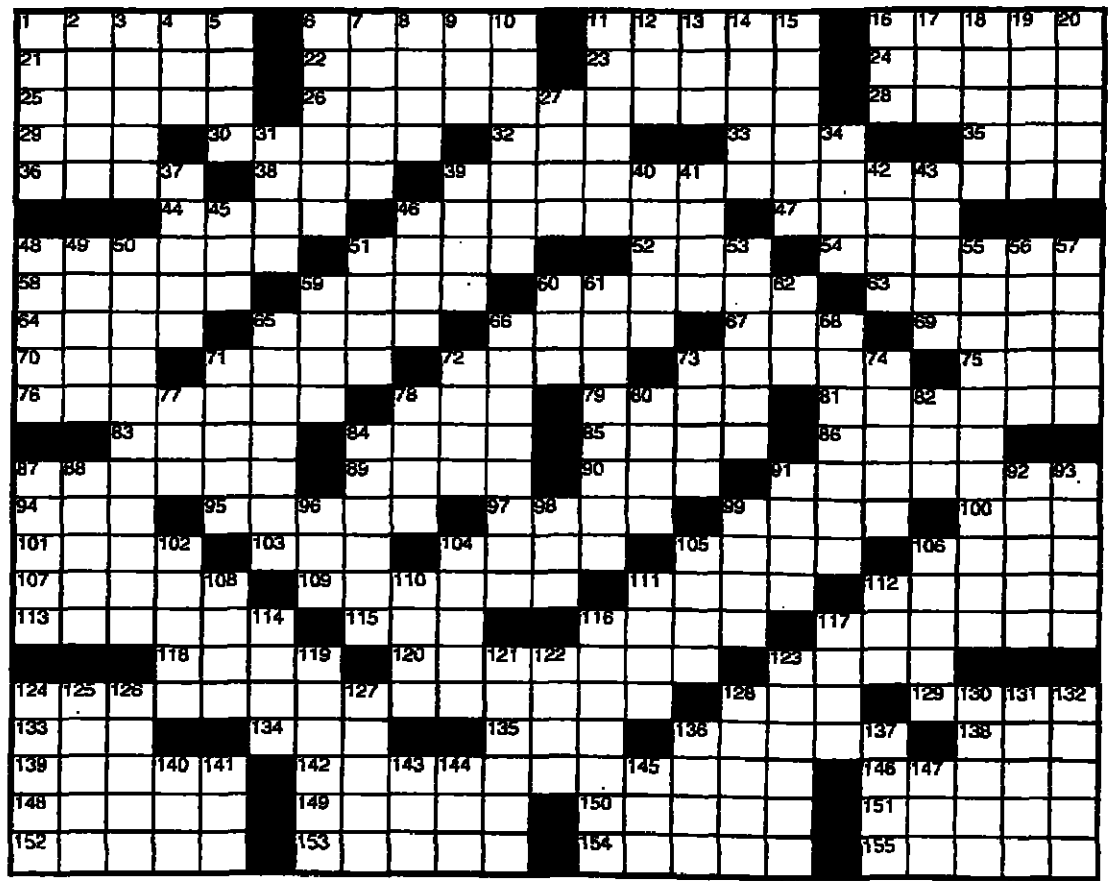
- 1 Whodunit award
- 6 Leather boots
- 11 Wine saying
- 16 Enthusiasm
- 21 Spring up
- 22 Mountain ridge
- 23 Lawn
- 24 Love, in Paris
- 25 Picky shrub
- 26 Caspary
- 28 Finnish bath
- 29 Night before
- 30 May the — be with you
- 32 The woman
- 33 — Paulo, Brazil
- 35 Tennis-court divider
- 36 Tenant's expense
- 38 Soak flux
- 39 Ambiguous expression
- 44 Author Ayn —
- 46 Type of machine
- 47 Prima donna
- 48 Texas-Louisiana river
- 51 Plateau
- 52 Pub brew
- 54 More depressing
- 58 Impressive display
- 59 Trail
- 60 Deplete
- 63 Chutzpah
- 64 Lovely dance
- 66 Scarlett's home
- 67 Ford du —
- 68 Wisconsin
- 69 Heurston
- 70 Santa —
- 71 Actor Richard —
- 72 Type of book
- 73 French city
- 75 Crumple up
- 76 Dad's relative
- 78 Noise
- 79 Eye part
- 81 Corn product

DOWN

- 1 Raring to go
- 2 Cattle group
- 3 Bridge expert
- 4 Charlie —
- 5 Hurry
- 6 Ocean hazard
- 7 Holy
- 8 Pamphlet
- 9 Nerve network
- 9 Had a bite
- 10 — non grata
- 11 One-celled animal
- 12 Beetle
- 13 Grain board
- 14 Horkers
- 15 Purposeful trip
- 16 Car fuel
- 17 Actress Thurman
- 18 Free of defects
- 19 Piano repairer
- 20 Make a speech
- 21 Carpal fish
- 22 Giant insect
- 23 Elevator inventor
- 27 Exponent
- 28 Chess piece
- 29 Andes animal
- 41 Model McPherson
- 42 Author Hunter
- 43 Consumer advocate Ralph —
- 45 Whoever
- 46 New Orleans
- 47 Fountain
- 48 Actress Bernhardt
- 49 Sporty place
- 50 Wage-gamer
- 51 Labyrinth
- 53 Joni (the army)
- 55 Reception area
- 56 French resort
- 57 Single Helen —
- 59 Ham, bacon, etc.
- 60 Not strict
- 61 Primitive tool, e.g.
- 62 — Mahal
- 63 Propriety
- 66 Slum sight, perhaps
- 68 Held together

71 Doomed one

- 72 Fork part
- 73 Gambling cubes
- 74 Actress Kim
- 77 Morse-code signal
- 78 Fishing boat
- 80 Hurry
- 82 Adult males
- 84 Lowest part
- 85 Holy
- 87 Sorceress
- 88 Old-womanhood
- 91 Small songbird
- 92 Depart
- 93 Church official
- 96 Used a chair
- 98 Foot dgi
- 99 Shipbuilding wood
- 102 Boy Scouts unit
- 104 Actress Black
- 105 Dispatched
- 106 Fairy tale author
- 108 — Me Kase
- 110 Lucy's partner
- 111 Enrich
- 112 Pind amite
- 114 Coagulate
- 116 Nightclub employee
- 117 Corn bread
- 119 Texas city
- 121 Not in attendance
- 122 In addition to
- 123 "McKey Mouse" creator
- 124 Perch
- 125 Author Bret —
- 126 Fire-sting squad
- 127 Arab country
- 128 — of dreams
- 130 Peer
- 131 Tied the sack
- 132 Snow White's friend
- 136 Large prei
- 137 Regretful
- 140 High mountain
- 141 Scottish river
- 143 Cude meat
- 144 Fellows
- 145 Actress
- 147 Spanish Mrs



School lunch metaphor

BY ROBERT NOVAK

House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently entered a hotel meeting room filled with Republican governors to make an unexpected and uncharacteristic apology. He took the blame for the public relations disaster that followed Republican proposals to trim the school lunch program.

That performance was welcomed by the governors, who had been feeling the heat. They were pleased by Gingrich's political flexibility and willingness to shoulder responsibility. Nevertheless, the incident reflected that Republicans are timid revolutionaries who have been rattled by the first whiff of grapes from the embattled Democratic establishment.

The essentially phony issue of school lunches is a metaphor for what really is at stake in Washington. Beginning in about May, Congress will debate whether it really intends to tear down the massive bureaucratic social welfare structure that has been built over the past half century. The guardians of that status quo have demonstrated, in dealing with a modest scaling down of school lunches, that they will not retire from the field easily.

Gingrich, the leader of the Republican revolution, acknowledged that fact of life on March 23 in meeting 14 governors at the Washington Court Hotel. He informed them that he had blundered on the school lunch cuts—not in proposing them, but in not being prepared to defend them.

"In doing so," said the speaker, as quoted to me by a governor, "we hurt you as governors. Because we did, I take it on the chin today." He called this the "worst public relations defeat" since the rush began in the House to enact the

Contract with America.

Gingrich was referring to the volley of rhetoric focused on the reduction of \$66 billion over the next five years for school lunches and breakfasts and giving the states the power to run these programs. The normally sensible Democratic Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, claim-

The school lunch program is the beginning, not the end, of a protracted battle over whether big government liberals shall lose their social welfare leviathan.

ing that "mean-spirited" Republicans were taking food "out of the mouths of children," said he was "reminded" of Pastor Martin Niemöller regretting that nobody spoke up to protest the coming of Hitler. "I am concerned and I must speak up," Lewis told the House.

Rep. Harold Vokmer, a previously inconspicuous nine-term House member from Missouri who has become a Democratic pit bull since Republicans took over Congress, declared on the floor last week that these reductions were made "to give those billions to large corporations and the wealthy in tax cuts." He then deplored "the people's House" voting to take "food from the mouths of innocent children so that the rich can have a pheasant under glass."

This mantra—a wealth transfer from needy children to greedy Republicans—has been sounded by Democratic politicians beginning with Bill Clinton. The president led the way in staging Democratic photo opportunities at

school cafeterias. The message was vigorously echoed in the news media.

Republicans have been wringing their hands in dismay over getting clobbered in the communications wars. In the madcap rush for passage of the Contract's 10 items in 100 days, the GOP leadership neglected to construct defenses. It was not even made clear that the school lunch program, though reduced from Clinton administration specifications, would still rise by 4.5 percent a year.

But incontestably, some middle-income children no longer would get free food at school under the Republican plan. It is this reality that Republicans seemed unready to defend in the face of attack.

The school lunch program is the beginning, not the end, of a protracted battle over whether big government liberals shall lose their social welfare leviathan. The jury of the American voters is still out. A nationwide poll taken from the Republican National Committee last weekend by Market Strategies shows 41 percent of all voters accept the Democratic description of taking food from children to cut taxes for the rich while 49 percent accept Republican claims of eliminating wasteful government—something less than a public relations disaster.

It is no disaster in the view of Michigan Gov. John Engler, the sturdy Republican reformer. "I think the Democrats have gotten the worst kind of poster child," he told me. "It will be seen next fall that schoolchildren are still getting their lunches, that all the charges were absurd." Timid revolutionaries on Capitol Hill might take heed of this message from the Midwest.

Robert Novak is a syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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The Chechen mafia

BY ANDREW MEIER

But Boris Yeltsin was not lying last December when he denounced Chechnya as "one of the most sinister centers not only of Russian but also of world crime."

At first, the U.S. State Department seconded Yeltsin's condemnation of Chechnya as a "horbed of crime." But thanks to the grotesqueries of the Russian onslaught an entirely understandable backlash developed. The West confessed to premature Chechen-bashing and retreated from earlier accusations. In the hands of the combatants' propagandists, the war looked like a face-off between Russian imperialists and Chechen thugs. Lost in the burlesque of charge and counter-charge was the real threat that organized crime on the Chechen scale can pose to the development of stable democratic institutions and free markets. A closer look at the evidence suggests that the Russians were right—not in the level of force they used, certainly, but in some of their reasons for using it.

Post-Soviet Chechnya did not produce a grass-roots drive for independence. Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's insurgency was venal first and nationalist after the fact. Only when confronted with Russian bombardments did the mass of Chechens pledge their lives to Dudayev's defense.

No one wants to see our boys dying down there. But it wasn't for nothing. Chechnya wasn't our second Afghanistan. This war had victors: us.

Dudayev's true base of support is in Chechnya's teips, clans that, in the upheaval of the post-Soviet era, controlled all paths to power and wealth in the republic. The new Chechen state was built around these established teips, the most prominent of which form the core of the Chechen crime syndicates.

Shortly after the attempted Kremlin coup of August 1991, Dudayev, then a major general in the Soviet air force, won the support of the most powerful teips. Having retired to Grozny from his posting in Estonia, he pulled off a coup, storming government offices with an armed band. On Oct. 27, he declared himself president, and in November he was elected in a vote widely condemned as fraudulent.

Ironically, the remaining Red Army troops hastily decamped, leaving Chechnya awash in arms in 1991. Then, in May 1992, according to Russian press reports, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev signed over half of the army's depots to Dudayev. It should have come as no surprise, then, that Dudayev's fighters now have in their arsenals Soviet-made T-72 tanks, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

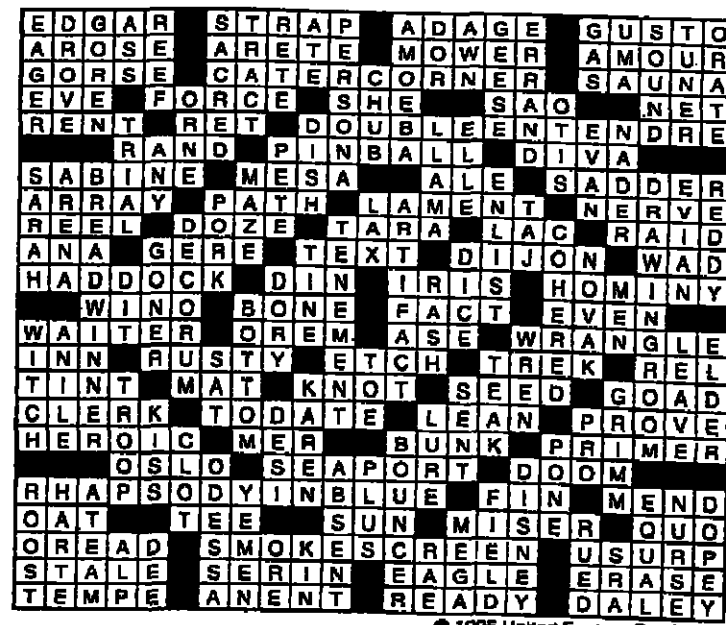
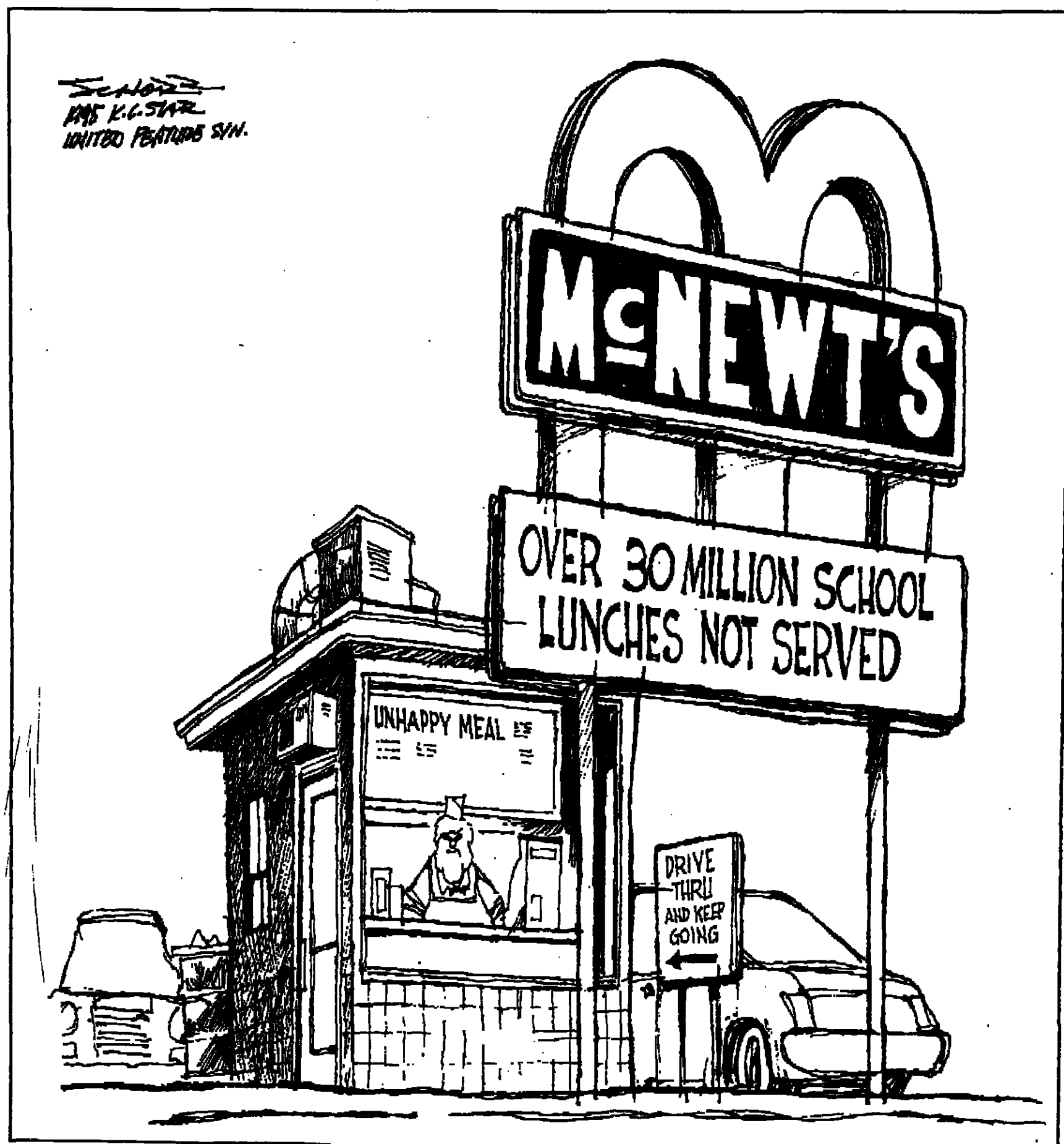
With Chechnya his personal duchy, the dapper Dudayev abandoned his Red Army uniform in favor of a black fedora and swank pinstripes. He also made use of the post-Soviet chaos to link up Chechen criminals across the former Soviet Union and Europe.

By 1994 Chechen criminal organizations had built up the most lucrative and far-reaching network of contraband goods in the former Soviet Union. Their smugglers' manifest now runs from weapons to cars to counterfeit money to prostitutes. Narcotics rank at the top. But weapons follow not far behind.

The Chechen syndicates have also proved adept at various forms of financial crime, including bank fraud and counterfeiting. In 1992, for example, the agents of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Agency intercepted a dozen Chechens as they attempted the biggest bank fraud in Russian history: a swindle of 60 billion rubles—then worth nearly \$700 million—from private banks in Moscow and other cities, using promissory notes.

The Chechens are not, of course, the only mobsters to emerge from the post-communist flossam. Organized crime wields some influence in nearly all of the newly independent states. In Moscow, assassinations and car bombs have become a part of everyday life, and nearly 220,000 crimes are reported each month. But it is a testament to the stature of the Chechen wiseguys—and an ironic by-product of the Chechen war—that their Russian counterparts have welcomed the carnage in Grozny as a convenient means of eliminating the competition. "No one wants to see our boys dying down there," one Russian gangster told me in January. "But it wasn't for nothing. Chechnya wasn't our second Afghanistan. This war had victors: us."

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مكازم النحل

They spread their Russian intelligence around

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

THEY spared no effort to integrate into the Russian intelligentsia. They changed their names. Some changed their religion. All excelled in the Russian language. And, if they were not ideologically attuned to the Revolution, they became refugees, spreading their Russian heritage to Berlin, Paris and New York, wherever the Jewish-Russian diaspora found a temporary abode. Only a few landed in Palestine, or Israel, before 1960. Their stories are told in *Yevre'i v Kulture Russkavo Zarubezh'ia* ("Jews in the Culture of Russians Abroad," volume 3).

There were those who achieved notoriety in their own right by merging into their new surroundings. Moscow-born Elsa Kagan married a French officer, who happened to be in the Russian capital in 1918, followed him to Tahiti, then to Paris, where she won a respectable place in French literature as Elsa Triolet. She is also known as the wife of the illustrious poet Louis Aragon, with whom she steered some 50,000 intellectuals who had joined the French Resistance. In the early 1960s she prepared a French anthology of Russian verse, for which she translated a great number of poems.

Another expatriate who won recognition in the West for his novels was Mark Aldanov, born Mark Landau. Most of his books were set against the background of the French Revolution. Other Jewish writers maintained contact with the dwindling audience among the Russian-reading public by writing for the Paris daily *Posledniye Novosti* ("Latest News"). Its nominal editor-in-chief was Pavel Militsky, a former leader of the liberals in Moscow, who wrote many of the editorials. Other editorials were written by Alexander Kulisher, a Petrograd-trained lawyer and philosopher who had published a book, in German, about the essence of the Soviet regime, and a biography of Disraeli in Yiddish and Hebrew. The paper's indefatigable secretary was Alexander Potiakov, whose task, as he envisaged it, was to make each day's issue "original and interesting."

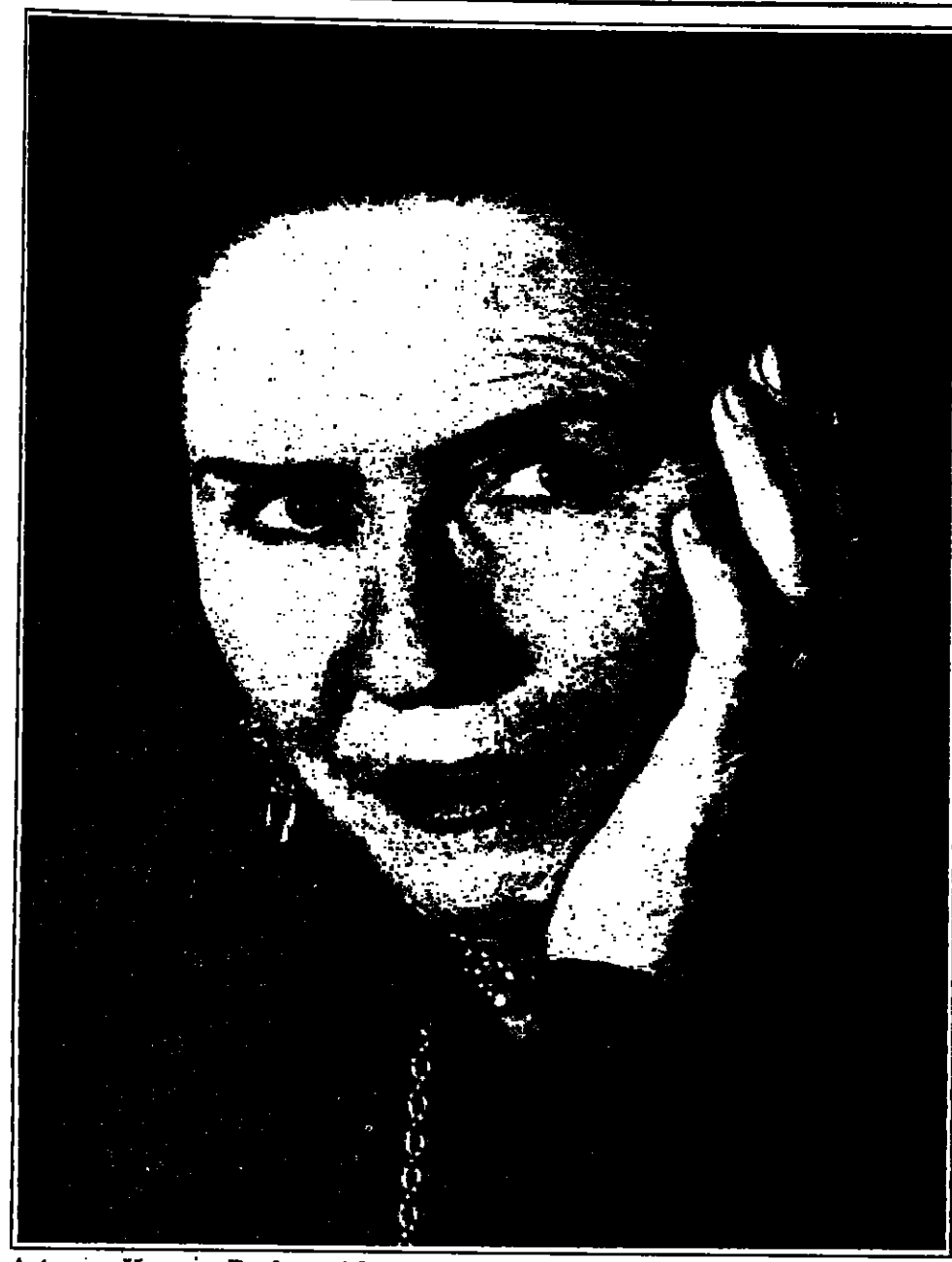
In-depth pieces were often written by Michael Berch, who signed them "M. Bnetik-tov." Under his own name, he contributed also to the Zionist weekly *Rassvet*.

The paper's youngest reporter signed his items "Andre Siedych" (literally, Andre the Gray-Head), no doubt because his real name sounded very un-Russian: Yaakov Moiseevich Zwiaback. Subtle humor was provided by "Don Aminadav," born Aminadav Peisachovich Shpolanski, or Aminad Petrovich to his Russian friends.

IT IS strange to find in this volume names we think of as genuinely and exclusively Israeli: actress Hanna Rovina, the poet Rahel, the great military commander Yitzhak Sadeh. Though, basically, of course, editor M. Parkhomorsky of Beit Shemesh is perfectly right to include them.

Rahel's father, Iser-Leib Bluvstein, was abducted by the authorities and as a child began to serve in the Russian Army. He married Sofia Mandelstam - no doubt a relative of poet Osip Mandelstam, says biographer Victor Radutzky. She died when Rahel was 16. Under the influence of Yitzhak Shimshelovich (or Ben-Zvi, the future president of the state), Rahel joined the Zionist movement and sailed to Palestine in 1909. She returned to Russia in the war years, but took the first boat from Odessa to Jaffa immediately after. Rahel, the real-life "Dame aux Camelias" of Hebrew letters, was an undiluted romantic in both her life and her writing.

Of Rovina, the first lady of the Hebrew stage, her biographer Olga Levitan notes that



Actress Hanna Rovina (above) - considered the first lady of the Hebrew stage - and the poet Rahel, both thought of as quintessentially Israeli, were of Russian descent.

(Drawing: Alexander Bogen, courtesy Genazim, Tel Aviv)

she used to speak Russian in her everyday life. But Russian was for her an acquired language: where Rovina was born, a small townlet in the Minsk area, the only language heard was Yiddish. However, she attended the local state school, where her teacher Rubinchik used to arrange theatrical performances with his pupil. A person of great determination, Rovina set out to master Hebrew the moment she accepted Nahum Tzema's invitation to join the Habimah venture, and she did. For a generation or two, Rovina was a legend, wrote critic Michael Handel-salt.

Another heroic figure carried censure from Sir Isaiah Berlin, who hardly veils his disapproval of his uncle, Yitzhak Landoberg, better known as Yitzhak Sadeh. Sadeh was an utterly irresponsible womanizer who paid little attention to his wife and baby daughter. "His main aspiration was to fight, it hardly matters whom," says Berlin. He became a professional wrestler and boxer just to spite the bourgeois milieu into which he was born. He volunteered for the Russian army when World War I started, deserted, joined the Red Army, then crossed the lines to the Whites in the Crimea. But once he heard the White officers brag about how they would treat the Jews when hostilities ended, he came to a decision. And he managed to board a vessel sailing to Palestine, though he had never been a Zionist, says Berlin.

But Sadeh was exceedingly charming, a voluble talker, a devoted comrade-at-arms, just the man to succeed as the founding father of the Hagana's commando units. His wife, who took her socialism seriously, could not stand Sadeh's fickleness and returned to Moscow. Sadeh was reportedly very left-wing himself, but Berlin denies it. Jews will never come to terms with Communism, asserted Sadeh. But he believed they might come to terms with the Soviet Union.



Artist Alexander Kopelovich died two days before a show of his works was to open in Moscow, some five years ago, writes his good friend Savva Dukakov of the Hebrew University. Kopelovich's biography is involved, as Jewish biography often is. He was born in Petersburg, two years before the outbreak of World War I. His physician father perished in a cholera epidemic that raged in Turkestan. His mother, a member of the Rupp family, married David Kopelovich, an ardent collector of Russian paintings, which he managed to transfer to Riga. He adopted the boy and enabled him to learn his art from a Russian teacher.

In 1939 Alexander Kopelovich and his wife Ray, a dancer, came to Jerusalem, a city he had visited several times before. For a livelihood Kopelovich manufactured pigments, an art he had learned during a prolonged stay in Paris. His business thrived. From 6 to 11 a.m. Kopelovich was engaged in producing paints; from 11 on he set up his easel at the Damascus Gate and painted.

He considered himself a Russian painter. "Kopelovich often said he continued the tradition established by Kramski," Dukakov recalls.

God is on his mind

BILL BROADWAY

AUSTRALIAN physicist Paul Davies has a lot on his mind - things like God, the universe and the \$1 million he will pick up next month as winner of the 1995 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

He also wonders whether the discovery of extraterrestrial life, when it occurs, will blow a hole in the Christian belief system.

"It's always been my position that the emergence of life and consciousness were not miracles, nor were they stupendously improbable accidents," said Davies, who explored the nature of the universe in his popular book *The Mind of God: The Scientific Basis for a Rational World* (1992).

"They are part of the natural outworkings of the laws of physics," he said. "Of course, one of the tests of that hypothesis is that these same laws, which are universal, should work out the same basic processes throughout the universe."

That means earth has no exclusive claim on life forms that have minds and, perhaps, souls.

Contact with alien communities may be a long time coming, Davies said. But powerful radio telescopes, such as those being used in the new Phoenix Project in Australia, can pick up signals from anywhere in the galaxy and may be closing the gap, he said.

Davies rejects reports of UFO sightings because he finds it "extremely unlikely that interplanetary travel takes place. It's dangerous and expensive. Why bother to do it if you can exchange information using radio?"

Belief in UFOs, like belief in angels, satisfies a need "deeply rooted in the human psyche" that "superior beings exist in the sky or beyond the sky that act as intermediaries to God," he said.

The discovery of thinking beings in other worlds would have all faiths reassessing their theological positions, he said. But it is particularly problematic for Christianity because of its position that Jesus is God incarnate. That belief, he said, "seems to tie the incarnation specifically to our species."

Could there be a savior for each species? Davies thinks not. "You have to wonder, if there are little green men, would God take on little green flesh? It gives a ludicrous view of the incarnation if it's repeated as a circus act all around the universe."

Christians will have to decide whether evidence of alien life can be incorporated into their belief system or will "devastate" it, he said.

DAVIES, 48, is professor of natural philosophy at the University of Adelaide and the author of 20 books. He is the eighth scientist to win the Templeton Prize, which was created in 1972 by global investor John Marks Templeton because the Nobel prizes lacked a religion category.

An avowed theist, Davies places himself among an increasing number of scientists "who never go into a church or synagogue or a mosque but nevertheless are religious in the broadest sense."

In *The Mind of God*, he wrote that "even hard-nosed atheists frequently have a sense of reverence for nature... that is akin to religious awe."

In a citation to be presented



Australian physicist Paul Davies believes our galaxy contains other life forms with souls. (AP)

May 5 in a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace, along with the check, Templeton judges call Davies "one of the world's most brilliant scientists. He works at the forefront of research in fundamental physics and cosmology. ... He has initiated a new dialogue between science and religion that is having worldwide repercussions."

Davies argues that Western religions and science complement one another, having originated in the same tradition of Greek, Jewish, Islamic and Christian thought.

In his latest book, *About Time: Einstein's Unfinished Revolution*, Davies pays tribute to the paradigmatic "religious" scientist. Albert Einstein often used the word God "in his deliberations on deeper issues," Davies said. Sometimes it was metaphorical, he said, but sometimes it was "beyond a way of speaking to a belief in some underlying order, some underlying purpose. Most scientists have this sort of feeling."

According to Davies, Einstein's greatest contribution to science and religion may have been his challenge of the long-held Newtonian theory of absolute time that is the same everywhere in a "clockwork" universe. In his theory of relativity, Einstein holds that the traditional

concepts of past, present and future have flexible meanings depending on circumstances.

In answer to Einstein's question of whether God had any choice in creating the world the way it is, Davies answers yes: The world could have been different if God had chosen to make it so. Davies argues that the universe implicitly follows definite natural laws but is not a closed, mechanistic system with finite possibilities.

In the world according to Davies, where people go to work every day, experience grief and joy and struggle with the meaning of life, that means free will exists. It means that we do have some choice, some measure of control over our lives even as the world evolves.

It also means that religion must be open to new discoveries and ideas.

"Religious fundamentalism is a terrible corruption of faith" because it allows for no change, he said. "We have to find a way, you might call it a kind of post-Christianity, of providing ordinary people - not scientists or theologians - a way in which they can live their lives with dignity without being tied to ancient texts and specific doctrines and different boring religious factions." (The Washington Post)

Getting in a dog fight with the neighbors over animal rights

WHAT do you do if your neighbors hate your dog? One reader complains: "My neighbors hate animals. I have a small terrier-type dog and they complain incessantly about him. They say that he chases cats through their garden and does damage. They claim he digs up their flower beds, barks at their children and frightens them, and he defiles their lawn. What can I do? My dog has a license, is a good dog, and never bites."

Basically, if a dog is doing any of the above, then the owner is at fault. Having a license for a dog only allows you to keep a dog according to the law, and here the law is very specific. A dog must be kept indoors or confined to your property. Many owners find the idea of confining their pet hard to accept. They love their animal companions and expect everyone else to love them too. It's possible this dog owner's

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

neighbors don't hate animals, just the way they feel the owner and the animal are taking advantage of them.

Let's look at it another way. You may be an exemplary neighbor who would never throw litter on your neighbor's lawn, yet you allow your dog to defecate there.

While you would never allow your children to take their spades and dig up your neighbor's flower beds, you don't stop your dog from doing just that. You would never trample on your neighbor's lawn and flowers, but you don't prevent your dog and his friends from ruining them. Have you really thought how your neighbor feels?

Keeping an animal companion entails responsibility, just as raising a family does. Owners must

ensure that their animal friends are confined to their own property and that their neighbors have no cause to complain. This is not only the legal way to settle this problem, it is also the right and civilized way.

Your animal friend is yours, not your neighbor's. You are responsible for its behavior. You have every right to keep an animal, but you have no right whatsoever to inflict that animal on anyone else.

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Spring training 'take 2,' under way

NEW YORK (AP) — Neither Greg Maddux, Jim Abbott nor Tommy Greene got off to good starts Friday in spring training.

Maddux, coming off a record third straight Cy Young Award, was diagnosed with chicken pox. He is expected to miss his opening-day assignment for the Atlanta Braves against San Francisco on April 26.

"It changes our game plan in that we will try to get Maddux ready for the fifth game as opposed to the first," Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone said.

Abbott, signed by the Chicago White Sox as a free agent last week, was tagged for six runs and seven hits while getting only one out in his exhibition debut.

"I didn't have a real good feel for any pitch. You never like to go out and have something like that happen, but that's the first time I've faced batters," he said. "I can only go up, that's for sure."

Greene, whom the Philadelphia Phillies wanted to be their No. 2 starter, reinjured his shoulder and will miss at least the first week of the season.

Greene, who missed most of last year after undergoing shoulder surgery, said he was hurting after pitching two innings Friday. Team doctor Philip Marone said the right-hander had inflammation in his shoulder.

Attendance, meanwhile, was up slightly over Thursday's spring games. The Los Angeles Dodgers drew 3,383 for a game against the New York Yankees, almost double the 1,788 fans who saw Thursday's game at Vero Beach, Florida.

Tom Candiotti was the winner for the Dodgers, giving up one hit and an unearned run in four innings. But Tom Glavine, likely to start in place of Maddux on opening day, Tom Browning and Aaron Sele struggled in other games. Glavine was the losing pitcher for Atlanta against Montreal and Sele gave up four runs for Boston.

Browning, playing in a game for the first time since breaking his arm while pitching last May, gave up five runs and four hits in one inning. He recently signed with Kansas City after spending 10 years with Cincinnati.

Eddie Murray had a tough day, too. After replacement umpire Bill Davis called a strike, Murray stepped back, argued and pointed a finger at him.

Murray grounded out on the next pitch, then exchanged more words with Davis as he walked back to the dugout.

Crews made up of former major and minor league umpires, along with college and high school amateurs, are filling in for the locked-out big league ump.

Rocky Roe was among 11 umpires who walked a picket line at Duncedin, Florida, before a game between Baltimore and Toronto.

"The game is bigger than the umpires, we know that," Roe said. "But we are an integral part of the game. If people want to see the game the way it's supposed to be played, they need us."

Among the players having good days were Ron Gant, Brian McKee and NL rookie of the year Raul Mondesi.

McRae, traded by Kansas City to the Chicago Cubs last week, hit his first home run for his new team. Mondesi also connected for Los Angeles.

Gant had an RBI single, his first hit since breaking his leg in a dirt-bike accident on February 3, 1994. Cincinnati signed him after he was released last year by Atlanta and the Reds hope he'll be ready by opening day.

"My leg has done everything I wanted it to do. The strike probably helped me. It gave me more time to strengthen my leg," Gant said.

In player moves Friday, the Red Sox agreed to terms with free agent pitcher Derek Lilliquist and claimed outfielder Troy O'Leary on waivers from Milwaukee. The Brewers also traded pitcher Scott Taylor to Texas for outfielder David Hulse.



TURNING 2, TURNING 40 — 'Oldtimer' Ozzie Smith is closing in on Luis Aparicio's double play mark.

Ozzie Smith at 40: 'I'm still getting the job done'

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — During the strike, Ozzie Smith opened a temporary employment agency, Ozzie's Alternative Staffing, in St. Louis.

He's anything but a short-timer with the St. Louis Cardinals. The future Hall of Fame shortstop turned 40 in December with little fanfare and is eagerly anticipating his 18th season.

"I think I played shortstop last year as well as any time I played it in my life," Smith said. "This is what I enjoy doing. I love the smell of freshly-cut grass."

There's little Smith hasn't accomplished over the years. From 1980-92, he won 13 consecutive Gold Gloves with often spectacular play. He holds nearly all of the major-league fielding marks at this position, and is closing in on the few he doesn't have, needing 116 total chances and 28 double plays to surpass Luis Aparicio.

Well, there is one goal left — 2,500 hits. Known as a defensive specialist early in his career, Smith enters this season needing 135. If he makes it, he'll be one of only nine players to accumulate 2,500 hits and 500 stolen bases.

Eight are in the Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Joe Morgan and Lou Brock.

He's also played on three pennant-winners one championship club with St. Louis. He's been metro-nome-consistent at the plate, joining Eddie Murray as the only active players with 17 consecutive 100-hit seasons. Last year he was the National League's top vote-getter for the All-Star game, making his 13th appearance.

He's outlasted most of his contemporaries, includ-

ing former teammate George Hendrick, now a minor-league instructor with the Cardinals. In fact, he's stuck around so long that new third baseman Scott Cooper was a junior high school student in St. Louis when the Cardinals won the 1982 World Series.

"To play next to him, that's tough to describe," Cooper said. "He wouldn't be here at 40 years old if he didn't have great talent," manager Joe Torre said.

For an old guy, Smith finished the strike-shortened season strong, going 33-for-91 to raise his average from .231 to .262. He also led NL shortstops with eight errors and his 11 infield hits tied Mark Whiten for the team lead.

It's not surprising, then, that he'd bristle at suggestions he was slowing down.

"It is irritating to hear people say, 'Yeah, he's lost a step or two,'" Smith said. "The bottom line to me is either you get the job done or you don't. I'm still getting the job done."

How much longer can he go? Smith isn't sure. What he does know is 40 is just a number.

"The big 4-oh. I think people made a bigger fuss of that I did," Smith said. "It was just another birthday to me, a couple more gray hairs."

He said he'll know when it's time to quit before anybody has to tell him and when it happens, he won't linger.

"Hopefully, my transition out of this will be a smooth one," Smith said. "I'll bide it when it comes, but it happens to all of us."

SARASOTA (AP) — Jim Abbott has been asked so many times about his unique style of pitching that his answer is as simple and effortless as the way he switches his glove to his left hand after each delivery.

"Just like tying shoes," he said with his new team, the Chicago White Sox.

Abbott signed a one-year contract for a base of \$2 million with another \$750,000 in incentives.

Born with a partially developed right hand, Abbott's ability to throw a pitch left-handed and then get his glove on the same hand in a split second is certainly no big deal to him.

"Before Little League, just going out and playing catch, it came easy for me," he said.

"I don't really explain it. I leave the explaining to everybody else. I go out and play the same as everybody else does. I play the way I learned growing up."

"A lot of people have been very supportive of me and that's why I had a chance to play baseball. Nobody ever shut any doors on me and I always had great friends, great coaches. My parents pushed

me out there and no one ever said 'no.'"

Abbott does more than just pitch, he inspires other physically challenged people, especially youngsters.

"I've been involved with the Challenger Division of Little League," he said. "It gives the opportunity for the physically challenged to play baseball."

"I can't think of a better program to be involved with. It's not a crusade. I'm here to pitch. If other things come along, that's great, too."

Last spring, Yankees owners Gene Steinbrenner said he thought Abbott should spend more time focusing on his pitching than his charity work.

Abbott was 9-8 last season with a 4.55 ERA with the Yankees. That followed an 11-14 season and a 4.37 ERA in his first New York season in 1993, when he threw a no-hitter.

He spent four seasons with the Angels and had an 18-11 record in 1991, three years after pitching the United States to an Olympic gold medal at Seoul.

Now he's on a team with good

friends Robin Ventura and Kirk McCaskill. The latter not only encouraged Abbott to sign with the White Sox but gave up his No. 25 jersey to his friend.

"It all comes at a price," joked McCaskill, whose chances of joining the starting rotation also were made slimmer by Abbott's acquisition.

"I'll be buying him dinner for a while," Abbott said. "I certainly appreciated what he did and always will."

Abbott's presence gives the White Sox another left-hander to go with Wilson Alvarez in a rotation that also includes right-handers Alex Fernandez and Jason Bere.

Abbott's addition softens the loss of ace Jack McDowell.

The 27-year-old doesn't think last season was that bad, even though he won only nine games.

"I felt like I pitched real well in the beginning of the year," he said.

"I got into a little streak just before the strike where I had a few bad games. But, all in all, I felt that it was a pretty positive year."

Hoops hall of fame pits high schoolers against internationals

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Baseball does it. Football does it. And, now they are going to play a game during induction weekend at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

The May 13 matchup at the Springfield Civic Center will not feature NBA stars, however, but rather a team of US high school all-stars against an international team, according to Hall of Fame President Joe O'Brien.

"We think this event will further the international growth of basketball and provide the kind of competition that international junior players deserve," said Thomas E. Clarke, president and chief executive officer of Nike, which is sponsoring the game.

The US will be represented by the Junior National Select Team being picked by USA Basketball, the US governing body for international competition.

The team will be coached by Bob Hurley Sr., one of the nation's most successful high school coaches. During his 22 years at St. Anthony's High School in Jersey City, NJ, Hurley has led the Friars to 17 New Jersey Parochial School championships and four state championships.

He is the father of Bobby Hurley, who plays for the Sacramento Kings, and Danny Hurley of Seton Hall.

The international squad, sanctioned by FIBA will be picked by the World Association of Basketball Coaches and coached by Sandro Gamba, who has spent over 50 years in Italian basketball as both a coach and player.

"At the end of my career, it's a great opportunity and thrill for me to coach a group of young international players from around the world," said Gamba, who coached four Italian Olympic teams.

The game, to be played on a Saturday afternoon, will launch three days of celebrations in this city where the game began. It will end with Monday night's enshrinement ceremonies.

Being inducted May 15 are Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer; women's Olympic and college

stars Cheryl Miller and Anne Donovan; former Soviet coach Aleksandr Gomelsky; former NBA official Earl Strom; former Minneapolis Lakers coach John Kundla and former Lakers forward Vern Mikkelsen.

Meanwhile, NBA commissioner David Stern has scotched rumors that there are plans to set up franchises in Europe.

"Europe has its indigenous leagues and franchises," Stern said. "We're not seeking to transcend European basketball, but rather to become a part of it."

"On an international level, the NBA will continue to place its emphasis on exhibitions, the world championships, the Olympics and the McDonald's Championship," Stern said.

For the first time, this year's McDonald's tournament will feature the reigning NBA champions. The field will also include the English league champion Sheffield Sharks, the Australian league champions, the winner of this week's European Final Four, and two other European clubs.

The McDonald's Championship is a joint venture of the NBA and FIBA, the international basketball federation.

While officials have previously expressed the hope of turning the event into an official world championship for clubs, Stern said that was not a possibility.

"It's still an invitational event and we think it's best if it remains that way," he said. "To make it into an official world club championship, you would need regional qualifying on every continent. We think it's best to avoid that. In any case, the winner of this tournament can fairly be called the international champions."

Officials hope the McDonald's Championship will increase basketball's appeal in England, where the sport has a low profile.

"We don't expect it to happen overnight," Stern said. "The buildup in basketball in the UK has been slow but definite. We don't expect to knock the top four sports off the paper but we expect to get a fair share of publicity."

Knicks beat Pacers in closing seconds, 88-84

INDIANAPOLIS — Derek Harper hit a 3-pointer with 7.5 seconds left to lift the New York Knicks to their fifth straight win, an 88-84 victory over the Indiana Pacers in a possible preview of an Eastern Conference playoff matchup.

After Rik Smits tied the game with 31 seconds to play, John Starks let the shot clock wind down before finding Harper deep in the left corner for the game winner.

Derrick McKey scored 23 points for the Pacers, who saw their lead over second-place Charlotte dwindle to a half game in the Central Division.

The Pacers held a 68-60 advantage heading into the fourth quarter, but Hubert Davis hit a

"We played with pride," said Knicks coach Pat Riley. "This game comes down to one shot. They had a lot at stake, we had a lot at stake."

Patrick Ewing scored 30 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as New York extended its lead to 3 1/2 games over the Pacers for second place in the Eastern Conference standings.

"We definitely wanted to beat them and definitely want the home-court advantage (in the playoffs)," Ewing said.

Derrick McKey scored 23 points for the Pacers, who saw their lead over second-place Charlotte dwindle to a half game in the Central Division.

The Pacers held a 68-60 advantage heading into the fourth quarter, but Hubert Davis hit a

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
Boston 119, Cleveland 84
Miami 85, Cleveland 84
New York 110, Washington 100
Philadelphia 102, New Jersey 94
Utah 121, Golden State 102
Houston 112, Portland 99
San Antonio 98, Sacramento 88
Seattle 133, Dallas 112
Denver 125, L.A. Clippers 103

juniper and Greg Anthony drilled two straight 3-pointers to tie it.

"The key was the start of the fourth quarter," Riley said. "We hit three consecutive jumpers and got right back into it."

Alonzo Mourning had 23 points and 13 rebounds as Charlotte eliminated Detroit from playoff contention.

Greg Sutton had 12 of his 14 points in the second half, and his 3-pointer with 3:14 left gave the visiting Hornets an 86-81 lead.

Allan Houston scored 21 points and Grant Hill had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who will miss the playoffs for the third straight season, qualifying for nine consecutive years.

San Antonio 98, Sacramento 88
David Robinson scored 32 points and pulled down 16 rebounds to lead

the host Spurs to victory.
Dennis Rodman added 15 rebounds in his return from a 14-game absence with a separated shoulder.

Sean Elliott scored 17 points for San Antonio, which had lost its last two games after a 15-game winning streak as the Spurs extended their lead to two games over second-place Utah in the Midwest Division.

Mitch Richmond scored 22 points for Sacramento, which fell a game behind Denver in the race for the final Western Conference playoff berth.

(Reuters, AP)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division
W L Pct GB
San Antonio 57 20 .740 -
Utah 55 22 .714 2
Houston 45 32 .584 12
Denver 38 39 .494 19
Dallas 34 42 .447 22.5
Minnesota 27 49 .354 29

Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
Seattle 55 23 .705 -
Phoenix 50 28 .641 5
L.A. Lakers 47 30 .610 7.5
Portland 40 36 .526 14
Sacramento 41 35 .539 13
Golden State 25 52 .325 29.5
L.A. Clippers 16 61 .208 38.5
—clinched playoff berth

THIS WEEK ON CABLE TV

TODAY

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 8:30 Bodies in motion 9:00 English Cup soccer semifinals highlights 10:00 WWF 10:30 Bodies in motion 11:00 World Rugby 11:30 National Basketball League semifinals highlights 12:00 National League soccer 12:30 Goal and a half 20:00 Kick boxing 20:30 National Basketball League final: game 1 — Macca's Tel Aviv v Hapoel Galil Elyon 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 22:30 Goal and a half 00:00 (to be announced)

EUROSPORT
9:30 Tennis 11:30 Adventure sport 12:30 Motor racing: Rally ride day 8 13:00 Boxing 14:00 Tennis 15:30 Live cycling 16:30 Live diving 19:00 Spanish Open golf 21:00 Boxing 22:00 Motor racing: Rally ride 22:30 Live sports dance from Paris 00:30 Tennis 20:00 Motor racing: Rally ride

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 European soccer show 7:00 Indonesia Open golf 8:00 WWF 9:00 London Marathon 10:00 Freestyle skiing 11:00 International sports magazine 12:00 Business Open golf 13:00 Sailing 13:30 Sumo wrestling 14:00 PGA golf 17:00 European soccer: Russia v Scotland 19:00 International sports magazine 20:00 Sailing 20:30 Brazilian league soccer 21:00 PGA golf 00:00 International sports magazine 1:00 Business Open golf

MONDAY APRIL 17

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 8:30 Bodies in motion 9:00 Bodies in motion 9:30 Bodies in motion 10:00 Bodies in motion 10:30 Bodies in motion 11:00 Bodies in motion 11:30 Bodies in motion 12:00 Bodies in motion 12:30 Bodies in motion 13:00 Bodies in motion 13:30 Bodies in motion 14:00 Bodies in motion 14:30 Bodies in motion 15:00 Bodies in motion 15:30 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Bodies in motion 17:00 Bodies in motion 17:30 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 Bodies in motion 19:00 Bodies in motion 19:30 Bodies in motion 20:00 Bodies in motion 20:30 Bodies in motion 21:00 Bodies in motion 21:30 Bodies in motion 22:00 Bodies in motion 22:30 Bodies in motion 23:00 Bodies in motion 23:30 Bodies in motion 24:00 Bodies in motion

EUROSPORT
9:30 Spanish Open golf 11:30 Diving highlights 12:30 Live sports dance 13:00 WWF 13:30 World League soccer 14:00 Live sports dance 14:30 World League soccer 15:00 World League soccer 15:30 World League soccer 16:00 World League soccer 16:30 World League soccer 17:00 World League soccer 17:30 World League soccer 18:00 World League soccer 18:30 World League soccer 19:00 World League soccer 19:30 World League soccer 20:00 World League soccer 20:30 World League soccer 21:00 World League soccer 21:30 World League soccer 22:00 World League soccer 22:30 World League soccer 23:00 World League soccer 23:30 World League soccer 24:00 World League soccer

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 PGA golf 9:00 European soccer: Russia v Scotland 11:00 (to be announced) 12:00 American football 13:00 Sailing 13:30 Talking baseball 14:00 PGA golf 17:00 (to be announced) 19:00 Sailing 19:30 (to be announced) 20:30 Talking baseball 21:00 PGA golf 00:00 (to be announced) 2:00 Sailing

TUESDAY APRIL 18

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 8:30 Bodies in motion 9:00 Bodies in motion 9:30 Bodies in motion 10:00 Bodies in motion 10:30 Bodies in motion 11:00 Bodies in motion 11:30 Bodies in motion 12:00 Bodies in motion 12:30 Bodies in motion 13:00 Bodies in motion 13:30 Bodies in motion 14:00 Bodies in motion 14:30 Bodies in motion 15:00 Bodies in motion 15:30 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Bodies in motion 17:00 Bodies in motion 17:30 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 Bodies in motion 19:00 Bodies in motion 19:30 Bodies in motion 20:00 Bodies in motion 20:30 Bodies in motion 21:00 Bodies in motion 21:30 Bodies in motion 22:00 Bodies in motion 22:30 Bodies in motion 23:00 Bodies in motion 23:30 Bodies in motion 24:00 Bodies in motion

EUROSPORT
9:30 Spanish Open golf 11:30 Boston Marathon 13:00 Eurogolf 14:30 Brazilian league soccer 15:00 Speed world 16:00

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 World League of American football

THE JERUSALEM POST
an international newspaper distributed in 103 countries on 6 continents in English and French. Over 500,000 readers.

Man admits to brutal rape of his wife

THE husband of the Hatikva Quarter woman who was brutally raped Tuesday confessed to the crime on Friday and was remanded by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

The man, 32, was arrested on Thursday after police discovered that he was home at the time of the rape, and not as he had told police.

Police said the man admitted that he raped his wife until she lost consciousness because she had been unfaithful to him.

After the rape, the husband told police that his friend, Yuri Duginov, 32, was at his home during the rape and must have

committed the crime. Duginov was remanded for 15 days on Thursday. Duginov claimed that he was at the home at the time, but that he had fallen asleep after drinking.

The couple's four-year-old son, who witnessed the crime, had told police that Duginov raped his mother. The woman was found bleeding seriously and police said sharp objects were used in the rape.

Police said Friday that they still had not been able to obtain the testimony of the woman, who is still hospitalized in serious condition. (Him)



The Hatikva quarter man, 32, who admitted Friday to brutally raping his wife, is brought before Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing. (Gideon Markowicz)

Bezek workers call off sanctions – no details on accord reached

JUDY SIEGEL

JUST before Shabbat Bezek workers' union decided to immediately halt sanctions which had left over 30,000 phone lines unrepaired over the past week. No details were available from the Bezek spokesman about the agreement.

Talks between the workers and the Histadrut on the one hand and Bezek management on the other succeeded. According to a company press release, the two sides "agreed to wording of a document that settles relations between them." Com-

munications Minister Shulamit Aloni congratulated management and staff for "ensuring a happy holiday for the public and doing all they can to repair broken phone lines that have accumulated."

The staff, who previously applied sanctions for a week in March, were protesting the government's decision to eliminate Bezek's monopoly in overseas dialing services.

The agreement means that an international tender to find one or two companies that will compete with Bezek in overseas dialing infrastructure can now be issued as scheduled in June.

Striking technicians last month returned to work under threat of contempt of court orders from the Tel Aviv regional labor court and

after receiving written promises from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Bezek would remain the primary telecommunications force in the country, and not be subject to mass firings.

However, the union later judged the document to be "insufficient" and the sanctions resumed last week, and Aloni suspended talks after receiving anonymous threats over the phone from union members. Friday's understanding has apparently eased the workers' fears.

Elbit engineer found dead

AHARON Isser, the senior Elbit engineer who went missing last Sunday, was found dead yesterday in his car near the entrance to Kibbutz Or Haner, near Sderot.

Police said Isser, 35, committed suicide the same day he disap-

peared from his Petah Tikva home. Isser apparently blocked the exhaust pipe of his car, closed himself in, and died of asphyxiation.

Dozens of volunteers had joined police in the search for

Isser, who was known to be suffering from depression.

Motorists touring the area yesterday found the car and notified police, who identified the body inside as Isser's. No suicide note was found in the car. (Him)

Five soldiers escorted home after wandering into Egypt

ALON PINKAS

FIVE IDF soldiers yesterday morning mistakenly crossed the Israeli-Egyptian border near Taba, and after a brief interrogation by Egyptian authorities were escorted back to Israel. OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz appointed an inquiry.

The soldiers, all from a combat unit, were on a hiking trip in Nabal Shlomo, a creek bed which descends the hills near Taba. According to a source in the Southern Command, the hike was authorized by their commanding officer. However, the five apparently took a wrong turn that carried them into Egyptian territory.

Realizing their error, the soldiers approached an Egyptian police station, where they were briefly detained. Once their mistaken presence had been clarified, they were escorted back to the Taba border terminal and returned to their base.

Indian minister ends four-day visit

Jerusalem Post staff

EFFUSIVE praise was heaped on a visiting Indian minister in Gaza on Friday for an infusion the Palestinians can appreciate more directly than economic aid – a gift consignment of India's finest tea.

The tea had already arrived before Shri R.L. Bhatia, the minister of state for external affairs. He yesterday concluded a four-day official visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the Indian Embassy said in a statement. Apart from tea, India has also pledged \$1 million in aid to the P.A.

At a joint press conference, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat thanked India for its "moral and material" support for Palestinians, though his main emphasis was on the "old and strong" traditional relationship – an obvious reference to bygone days of India's pro-Soviet stance and Third World leadership.

In Israel, Bhatia, the first Foreign Office minister to visit, brought

President Ezer Weizman an official invitation to India. Weizman accepted and tentatively indicated the trip could be scheduled for early next year, the statement said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visited India in 1993 and signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

In the three years since establishing diplomatic relations, Israel and India have signed an increasing number of agreements covering agriculture, science and technology, tourism, civil aviation, and culture, the statement said.

Last December the two agreed to accord Most Favored Nation trade status to one other and signed a double-taxation treaty.

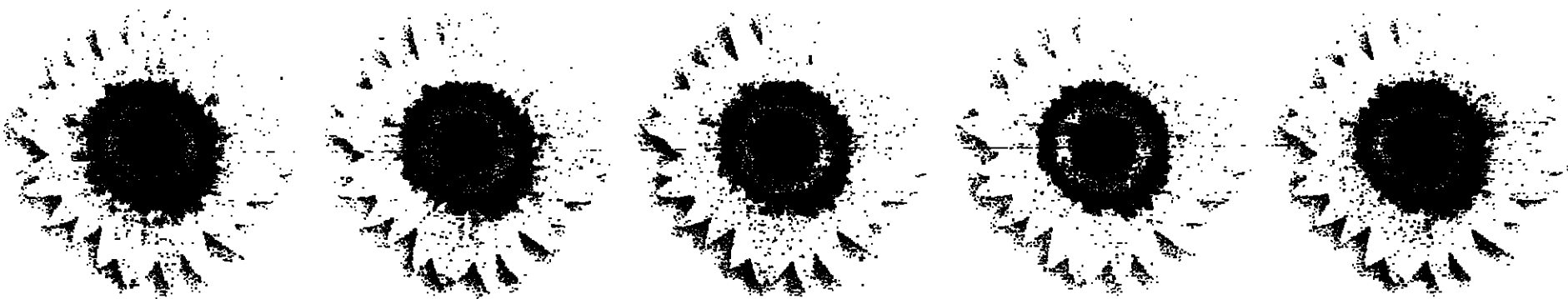
Bilateral trade topped half a billion US dollars in 1994 and continues to grow rapidly this year, say economic experts.

Accord signed with Cape Verde

ISRAEL and Cape Verde, a republic in the Atlantic off West Africa, signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation last week, the Foreign Ministry announced. Cape Verde has already purchased water desali-

nation facilities from Israel. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres noted that both countries were established by Jews. Jewish families were among the first emigrants from Portugal to Cape Verde in the 15th century.

FIVE ROOM APARTMENTS



IN A FIVE STAR PROJECT

5 ROOMS IN A GOLDEN PACKAGE: A 153 SQ.M. 5 ROOM APARTMENT PLUS A SUN BALCONY, UNDERGROUND PRIVATE PARKING, IN THE ONLY PRESTIGIOUS RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATED IN THE HEART OF KFAR SABA.

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AT THE JERUSALEM POST PESSAH HANDICRAFTS FAIR

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METRO WEST SPORTS CENTER Rehov Borochov (corner Hapalmah), Ra'anana

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18 SUPER DOOR PRIZES

MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE POST'S RA'ANANA FAIR!

AISH HATORAH OPEN HOUSE at THE KING DAVID HOTEL
King David Street, Jerusalem
Monday, April 17
8:30 a.m. Rabbi Giffen: "Wonders of Jewish History"
5 p.m. Rabbi Meyer: "Do Love and Marriage Go Together?"
8:30 p.m. Rabbi Noah Weinberg, Dean of Aish HaTorah: "ABC's of Jewish Pleasure."
Tuesday, April 18
9:30 a.m. Rabbi Pliskin: "Begin Again Now": Jewish Approach to Growth and Happiness.
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Roof-Top Tour of Old City, starting at the new Aish HaTorah World Center, overlooking the Western Wall (leaving from King David Hotel at 11 a.m.)
5 p.m. Rabbi Berger: "The Jewish Challenge": The why's of antisemitism.
8:30 p.m. Rabbi Zakheim: Hidden Codes of the Torah: experience the Discovery Seminar
Both days
2:30 p.m. Special Video Show featuring President Clinton and Steven Spielberg
Everyone Welcome

مركز المدينة